

## Christian Worship Hymn 324—Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

*Almighty God, your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.*

*Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove.  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.*

*Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.*

*Whene'er the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving power may know.*

For our Friday devotion, I thought it would be nice to look at hymns that fit the theme of the lessons that we looked at earlier in the week. The hymn for this week is Hymn 324 out of Christian Worship, the WELS Hymnal. This hymn was written by John Cawood in about 1815.

This hymn very well summarizes the thoughts that are conveyed in Jesus' parable of the sower. Verse one describes how God's Word is like seed that is cast into the ground. Notice how the hymnwriter points to God as the author of growth. He uses the picture of heavenly dew as the life-source for the seed and the power for growth. That picture is exactly how God works through his Word. His word is sown in the hearts of mankind through the proclamation of that Word. That Word is nurtured in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit. Only God can make that faith, which is produced by the Word, grow! The Apostle Paul reminds us of that very truth when he says in 1 Corinthians 3:6 "*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, **but God made it grow.***"

Verse two is a prayer to the Lord to keep his arch enemy away. Satan loves to snatch the Word away from people by whatever means he can employ. It is very much what we pray when we say in the 7<sup>th</sup> petition of the Lord's Prayer, "*Deliver us from evil.*" Don't let Satan come into our lives and snatch the Word away. God promises to protect us. He says in John 10:28, "*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **no one can snatch them out of my hand.***" But when we invite Satan into our lives and kick God out, we endanger that faith.

Verse three is a prayer to God to help us keep our eyes fixed on him. The cares of this world are many and great. Like the waves on the Sea of Galilee, they threaten to swamp us. But with our eyes on the prize, our Savior Jesus, and on his Word, we will not be destroyed. Our faith will be strengthened to produce one hundred times what was sown in works of peace and joy!

This hymn closes with a prayer for all people who hear the Gospel. Wherever God's Word is preached, may those who hear it know their Savior! Jesus Christ is the heart of the Gospel message. His saving work is what people need to hear about. Jesus lived for you, he died for you, he rose for you! Believe it! This is the saving power that we all can share! It is my prayer that God will bless you as you share your Savior!

