

THE HEDGEHOG REVIEW

♪ Bad Hymn

Spirit of God

I can almost see Your holiness
As I look around this place
With my hands stretched out
To receive Your love
I can see You on each face

Spirit of God lift me up
Spirit of God lift me up
Fill me again with your love
Sweet Spirit of God

(Hanneke Jacobs, Maranatha! Music, 1984)

The Problems: When Isaiah saw the holiness of the Lord, he confessed: "Woe is me! For I am an unclean man and dwell among a people of unclean lips (Isa 6:5). We cannot stand God's holiness.

His holiness evokes confession – of our total sinfulness. None of us has God within. None of us has even the tiniest spark of divinity in us.

The "Spirit of God" hymn wrongly assumes that God is within us and that we can see God's holiness in the face of others. Not so. The idea is sub-Christian, that is, a kind of New Age spirituality.

Rather, God's holiness is the cross alone. How contrary to "sweet Jesus"! The Holy One is the crucified one. He's not "nice" or "sweet." We cannot find a lovely reflection of ourselves in his crucifixion.

He died for us, the ungodly. And he was raised from the dead to be present wherever his Word and sacraments are rightly preached, that is, wherever salvation is proclaimed by faith alone in Christ alone.

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What's Good about "Mary, Did you Know?"

At a time when there is so much nonsense about political correctness in general and about Mary as a feminist icon in particular, here's a modern hymn that gets it right. It focuses on Jesus' person and work – and also on Mary's role as the God-bearer.

This song invites us to look with Mary in wonder at this infant and to his future as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Good Hymn ♪

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God

Mary, did you know?
The blind will see
The deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I Am

Oh Mary, did you know?

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