

NATHAN  
LONG



PROGRESS



## 1. If You Love Me

Now listen closely, boys  
it's been a good three years  
and when I look at your faces,  
I hate to say the end is near.  
I'm going up now  
to make a place for you  
and it's a hard road there  
so the Spirit will come to guide you

This is a tough world, boys  
they sure have hated Me  
and it's gonna be the same for you  
if you're living faithfully  
But I'm giving everything  
so you can be redeemed  
and all these words of life  
have come to you with suffering

(Partial chorus)

When you talk about faith and works,  
you get it all mixed up;  
I'd rather tell you all about faith and love.  
Cause when you hear My voice  
it ought to sound so sweet  
that you would leave your life behind  
to follow Me

So if you love Me, do what I say;  
if you don't follow the Shepherd  
you're gonna lose the way  
If you love Me, do what I say  
then every step you take  
will be a step of faith

Don't think these things you do  
can save you  
it's not your works that make you  
but it's a sign of life  
It's by your love they'll know you  
and all along I've showed you  
I've showed you how to live right  
I'm leaving you with all this  
to be a witness, and to pass it on

how will they know that I'm true  
if they don't see you shining strong?

(Chorus)

## 2. Love Picture

This is not the picture  
You wanted love to be  
if she smiles that way for everyone,  
she cannot smile for me  
Love is a secret; be careful who you tell  
Love is not a product you can buy and sell  
oh, and it's just as well  
if it costs you your whole life

But I see something beautiful...  
I see something beautiful...

This is not the picture  
You wanted love to be  
but they cut the heart right out of love  
and made pornography  
Daddies don't love their babies,  
babies grow up confused  
they don't know how to love;  
they only know how to use  
oh, it's so true  
but we can't pass all the blame

But I see something beautiful...  
I see something beautiful...

Husbands, love your wives  
as Christ gave His life...

He gives, she receives  
He protects, she believes  
He gives, she receives  
He protects, she believes...  
she believes...

This is not the picture  
You wanted love to be  
There's a steady stream of broken hearts  
and broken promises

But Love is a mystery, Love never dies  
Love stands alone and looks you  
straight in the eyes  
and when you see those eyes...  
there's nothing left to say.

## 3. Progress

Maybe they started out counting sheep  
Maybe they started counting stones  
One thing I'll tell you 'bout  
those human beings  
is they never could leave  
well enough alone  
One day it's telescopes and catapults  
Next thing it's microscopes and guns  
What's the use of climbing up the  
mountain if you only wind up  
staring at the sun?

Everything gets better all the time  
Everything gets better all the time  
Sleeker, smaller, newer, taller  
faster, cleaner, safer, leaner  
Everything gets better all the time

Look at the work of Michelangelo  
and tell me if we've come so far  
One hundred eighty years  
since Beethoven died,  
I can barely even play on this guitar  
Are we getting closer to perfection?  
Do we still have anything to say?  
Are we improving our expression  
while our souls are getting smaller  
every day?

Everything gets better all the time  
Everything gets better all the time  
Sleeker, smaller, newer, taller  
faster, cleaner, safer, leaner  
Everything gets better all the time

Oh, everything gets better all the time  
Look around: the world's contracted;  
every day we're more distracted



Everything gets better all the time  
Everything gets better all the time...

One day it's telescopes and catapults  
Next thing it's microscopes and guns

#### 4. The Cup

Take this cup, each of you  
My good friends  
As you drink, remember Me  
remember this:

It is for your pardon  
and it is from My heart  
and though you will not see Me  
we will never part

Greater love has no man  
than to lay down his life to save his friends  
and I love you...  
Take this cup and drink.

Take and eat; what I have,  
I freely give  
Eat my flesh, drink My blood  
that you may live

I have washed your spirits  
and I have washed your feet  
you must love as I have  
if you would follow Me

(Chorus)

And in the years to come  
you will learn this love  
that gives until it bleeds  
And you will lose it all  
but you will have it all  
because My blood is all you need

It is for your pardon  
and it is from My heart  
and though you will not see Me  
we will never part

(Chorus)

Take this cup, each of you  
My good friends  
As you drink, remember Me...  
remember Me.

#### 5. Psalm 46

God is our refuge  
our help in trouble  
We will not fear,  
although the earth should shake  
and the mountains give way

He is our refuge  
our God is always at hand  
we will not fear;  
although the oceans should roar,

Strong nations tremble  
at His command  
Though heaven and earth pass away  
the Lord Almighty stands

There is a river  
that flows in the city of God  
there by that river  
His people never must fear;  
their Defender is near

Come see His triumph  
how war and fighting shall end  
God breaks all weapons,  
His city never can fall;  
He is God over all

(Chorus)

Be still and know that He is God...  
He is God!

(Chorus)

#### 6. Miracle Boy

The idea the Messiah would  
come here this way  
must've sounded like sacrilege  
like being born in a gas station bathroom  
or under an interstate bridge  
Even cruel King Herod, the puppet of Rome  
had a pile of silk sheets for his bed  
but the King of all kings  
drew His first breath of air  
in a dirty old animal shed

Cry, oh cry, our infant King  
Open Your mouth up  
and let Your voice ring  
Cry for Your people in sorrow and joy...  
Welcome to Earth, little miracle boy

Well the fire had gone out  
and the moon stood high  
when the shepherds  
got word from the Lord  
When an army of angels  
split open the night  
with their voices instead of their swords  
It was good news to them  
when they opened their eyes -  
then the glory of God shone around  
when the angels were gone,  
they all threw down their staffs  
and they ran all the way into town

(Chorus)

And they said You would be  
a man of sorrows  
and they said You would bear our pain  
and the sun will rise up  
on the world tomorrow  
but tonight You are here,  
and the stable's a temple  
and the old things are passing away...

(Chorus)

## **PRODUCTION**

**produced, engineered, edited, & mixed by Stephen Gause**  
**[www.stephengause.com](http://www.stephengause.com) - [invertigo@stephengause.com](mailto:invertigo@stephengause.com)**  
**additional engineering by Ben Phillips**  
**recorded at Invertigo Productions & Bletchley Park - Nashville, TN**  
**mixed at Invertigo Productions**  
**mastered by Mayfield Mastering - Nashville, TN**

## **PLAYERS**

**Nathan Long - vocals, background vocals, acoustic guitars, harmonica**  
**Elizabeth Long - background vocals**  
**Ben Phillips - drums, percussion**  
**Aaron Sands - bass guitar**  
**Mike Payne - electric guitars**  
**Matt Stanfield - piano, organ, rhodes, keys**  
**Tom Yarbrough - accordion, mandolin, high strung guitar**  
**Stephen Gause - background vocals**  
**Bill the Plant - background vocals**

## **DESIGN**

**Original cover art by Chris Koelle - [christopherkoelle.com](http://christopherkoelle.com)**  
**All other packaging design by Nathan Long**

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