

God Is Able: Fielding/Morgan: (2010)¹

Visualisation: Theodirectional 2

Analysis: *God is able*, is left hanging: incompletism. What is he able to do? Is saying that God is [the] *Almighty God*, as a title, saying anything more than that he is God, who is almighty since he is might? *God almighty* is the better term. *Almighty god* is the stuff of polytheism, one type of god (almighty) contrasting to a god or gods not the same. Does talk of God, merely as Jesus, reflect Pentecostal Hillsong's common voicing of Oneness Pentecostalism?² So, God is Jesus, the riser from death—*lifted up he defeated the grave*—and he in whose *name we overcome*. God has died! I reduce the start points from 100 to 29 (bad fail). Beginning with Jesusism ends with God as Jesus; beginning with Trinitarianism ends with God as more than Jesus. The Hillsong way, trinitarians could be singing to God only to realise they were to be singing to Jesus: misdirection. The BAG pans out as E for trinitarians, but B+ for unitarians.

From a trinitarian perspective, both the incompletism (*is able*) and the heresy (*God*) can be removed by *Christ is risen*. Though the NT mentions various things that the lord is able to do—such as keep us close to God (Rm.14:4), help us overcome temptation (Heb.2:18), and unfold God's eschatology (Rv.5:5)—for simplicity my rewrite simply takes its cue from the chorus' resurrection theme. Strictly speak he is not *greater than all we seek* if we seek *him*, though very probably he is above all we ask, and certainly is above all we know and hope. *We overcome* may stand alone, but if the emphasis is resurrection *could* be changed to *we have new life*, to be more thematic. *He will make a way* overlooks him having made the way; we are to travel it with his spirit. The father is our destination, the lord has made the way, and the spirit takes us along it. Jesus doesn't go before, but has gone before, and is not our guide. In stanza 2, the eschatological note of *hope*, and to some extent *know*, suggest a future of doing great things. Some of the wording sounds like journeying alongside, and the Bible also speaks in such terms, howbeit with theology alongside to say that Jesus walks with us, even indwells us, but by the representation of the spirit. If we go too strictly on that road, too many songs will need too much change, and we may safely sing such words so long as we know the Bible.

The song looks at the lord's greatness, not God's: he has done great things, in him we can do great things, his way is great, he is greatly with us, and will greatly support us. If converted to trinitarianism, and some shoddiness removed, I could recommend it.

Suggestions: Replace *God is*, by *Christ is*, *able*, by *risen*, *Almighty God*, by *the mighty lord*; *all we seek*, by *all we do*; *our god is able*, by *yes, Christ is risen*; *He will make a way*, by *he has made the way*, or *he himself is the way*; *has done great things* (for stanza 2's future feel), by *will do great things*; *he will go before*, by *he has gone before*.

| BAG | A | B | C | D | E | F | G ^{1,2} | H ^{1,2} | I | J ^{1,2,3} | K | L | M | Total | Grade |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|------------------|----|--------------------|---|---|---|-------|-------|
| | - | 4 | - | - | - | 8 | - | 72 | 12 | - | - | - | - | 4 | E |

Christ is risen, He will never fail, he is the mighty lord / greater than all we do, greater than all we ask, he has done great things / Lifted up, he defeated the grave, raised to life, yes Christ is risen / In his name, we overcome, for the Lord, yes Christ, is risen // Christ is with us, Christ is on our side, he has made the way / far above all we know, far above all we hope, he will do great things // Christ is with us, and he has gone before / he will never leave us, he will never leave us / Christ is for us, and he has open arms / he will never fail us, he will never fail us.

¹ www.howgreatthouarthymn.com/words.html

² Admittedly the term *raised* implies a raiser other than Jesus the raised.

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompletism (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)