

Holy Spirit, We Welcome You: Chris Bowater (1986)¹

Visualisation: Theodirectional 3

Analysis: A prayer song to the spirit, both welcoming him and desiring to live more meaningfully with him. The pattern is three rhyming lines, sandwiched between a refrain to the spirit. It is mainly congregational prayer, *among us*, but ends with the more individualist, *in me*. Sadly *move among us, et al*, misdirects prayer. This could be corrected by either asking the father, or changing *ask* into *acknowledgement*. Songs to the spirit are too few, IMO, and I would suggest correcting the second way. *As we lay aside* implies both that we actually do lay aside all *earthly desires* (a boast), and that he only moves among us if we do this possibly impossible thing. I neither like the boast, nor am convinced that as created beings it's evil to have creational desires.² Granted that there are sinful desires aplenty, and that spiritual desires are Godward, there are surely many neutral desires, such as good food, clean air, and loyal friendships. Arguably the cardinal desire of man's rebellion is autocracy, and rewording could allude to that.

Calling ourselves *children* of our father's son, and/or of our father's spirit, mentally confuses the concept, *trinity*. Put another way, if I am an heir with God's son, Jesus (Rm.8:17), thus a child of the spirit, does that not make God's son the spirit's son, in which case is the spirit not the father of us both? In short, if we call the spirit our father, have we not basically fallen into unitarianism, the idea that *father/son/spirit* are three names for one person? I don't buy into soft unitarianism.

The Spirit's flow is prayer misvisualisation: Holy Spirit, let me tell you about the Holy Spirit—a yunoty error. How can we prayfully visualise the spirit, if having him in sight we sing like that to him? How can I directly look Jack in the face and ask him if I may drive "Jack's car"? Surely I'd word that as "your car". I conclude that Chris was not really praying to the spirit when singing this song, whatever he might have thought: the wording's simply not face to face reality. Soft misvisualisation. Finally, since the last stanza is individual, the closing refrain could be on an individual note—*I worship you*.

Suggestion: Replace *move among us*, **by you move among us**, *all earthly desires*, **by our foolish desires** (or, to improve rhyming with *fire/aspire, man's foolish desire*);³ *let the breeze*, **by may the breeze** (to express a desire rather than request); *your children*, **by your people** (or, *God's children*); *the spirit's flow*, **by your wondrous flow**; *please accomplish*, **by you'd accomplish**; *I pray*, **by to stay**; *unreservedly have*, **by as I yield myself to**.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	12	12	8	-	-	8	E

Holy Spirit, we welcome you / Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

You move among us with holy fire / *as we lay aside man's foolish desire* / hands reach out and our hearts aspire

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit / Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

Holy Spirit, we welcome you / Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

May the breeze of your presence blow / that your *people* here might truly know / how to move in *your wondrous* flow

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit / Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

Holy Spirit, we welcome you / Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

You'd accomplish in me today / some new work of loving grace, *to stay* / *as I yield myself to* your way

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit / Holy Spirit, / welcome you.

¹ http://higherpraise.com/lyrics/love/7_love853092.htm

² The term *earthly*, like the Greek *σαρκ/sarx*, sometimes has a negative, and sometimes a neutral, meaning. Context should make clear.

³ <http://chrisbowater.com/?song=holy-spirit-we-welcome-you> has the singular, desire. Since many sites reflect the plural desires, I suspect that Bowater's site reflects amendment.

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-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)