

## PHILIP REMEMBERS

*Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father?' (John 14:8-9)*

In hindsight, we meet wisdom. Every one of us perceives it clearly now. We were too close to Him, as planets to the sun, too dazzled by His presence to aver the plain intent of what He promised us. 'You know the way I go and where I go,' He said in simple terms, as so He must, To those whose minds are muffled 'gainst the snow of new ideas, lest gently it should drift across the darkened hollows of our thoughts and bury every crack, and fill each rift. Dear Thomas, with impatience overwrought, then blurted out, 'How can we know the way?' 'You know Him now,' said Jesus, 'I am He. I am the way, the truth, the life today and no one meets the Father but through Me.' I should have hesitated, held my peace, but I, too, like the Twin, was quick to speak. 'Lord, show the Father to us, if you please - that's all we ask.' I thought this was the peak of all belief. But two surprises yet awaited me. 'If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father, too,' the Lord disclosed. 'You met Him in the works He did through Me. I lean on Him in everything I do.' And then He shattered into shards my hope-filled dreams. 'I go away,' He struggled to explain, 'Yet I will come again.' To me it seemed, no matter what He said, He spoke of pain. 'I'll send the Counsellor, Whose name is Truth. through Him I'll always satisfy your need, through Sabbath, Firstday, Pentecost and Booths, in meditation, action, word and deed.'

Just as a child clings to a toy he loves  
and cannot understand the day will come  
when it will be abandoned, so the Dove  
of Heaven seemed remote to us, so numb  
was our reaction to the Master's Word.  
Of course, we're older now and wiser, too,  
we know the value of the things we heard,  
and understand that all things now are new.  
We loved the Lord, too well, more than we ought,  
not knowing how those halcyon days were short.

The Counsellor, Who comes in Jesus' Name,  
burned bright upon us with a heavenly flame.  
He fused His Spirit one with ours that day,  
henceforth to dwell in temples made of clay.

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## **About Dr Barry Chant**

Barry Chant is Senior Pastor of the Wesley International Congregation in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular speaker at church services, seminars, conferences and conventions. Hundreds of thousands of his books have been sold around the world. He has degrees in arts, theology and ministry, a diploma in education and a PhD in history. He was the initiator and former president of Tabor College, Australia.

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