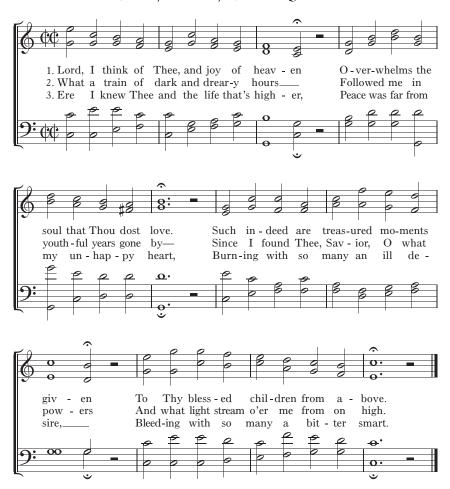
Lord, I Think of Thee, and Joy of Heaven

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4. Full of youthful zeal I was pursuing Nothing but deceit and vanity; Sham and shadow I was ever wooing, And the truth remained unknown to me.

5. Filled with false ambition, pride, and cunning, Wanting meekness, sense of right, and light, Into error's mazes I was running, Oft unwilling, slave to sin's dread might.

- 6. Were I loved—thought I—or glory earning, All my inner longing would be stilled; Though I found these richly, yet the yearning In my heart and soul remained unfilled.
- 7. Shepherdless, and in a desert wand'ring, I did stray, a lost and erring sheep, Finding nowhere aught to still my hung'ring, Nor a spring of water, cool and deep.
- 8. In my need I surely would have perished, Pain and anguish would have smothered me—Had I not perceived Thy call so cherished, Shepherd, had I not found rest in Thee!
- 9. What a struggle faced me, and moreover Doubt and fear bound me on every side! Till at last, the bitter conflict over, My poor soul in Thee, Lord, did confide!
- 10. Long a downcast spirit did depress me— Now Thou cheerest both my heart and mind; Only peace and happiness possess me Since my blessèd lot in Thee I find.
- 11. Since that sacred day when I did find Thee, O'er desire I now can victor be;
 Anger, discontent I leave behind me—
 Heaven came into my heart through Thee!
- 12. Nor will there be dreary clouds above me, That will overcast my heaven's blue—
 If I evermore, O Lord, will love Thee,
 Without discontent, to Thee be true.
- 13. Woe unto the world, such love despising, That such joy in Jesus casts away; For, its value never realizing, It is led by vanity astray!
- 14. O forsake me not, my faithful Savior, Though at times Thy face I fail to see! As the gold by fire, purge me ever, Till I am as Thou wouldst have me be!
- 15. When at last these bitter trials are ended, And I finish this my earthly race, There within the land of joys unblended—Dare I hope it?—I shall see Thy face!
- 16. Purified in heart, enraptured, Savior, With my song I'll praise Thy Name most blest, That Thou, all earth's anguish past forever, Hast bestowed on me Thine endless rest!