

ANDY CHRISMAN **One**

song by song

BELIEVE

(Andy Chrisman, Greg Bieck, Tyler Hayes-Bieck)

I wanted to have a song on the album that was a statement of faith. Matthew 10:32* says, "So I will acknowledge in front of my Father in heaven that person who acknowledges me in front of others." This song is my way of acknowledging Him before men. It is my declaration of my beliefs.

I've also always been intrigued by the dialogue between Jesus and Thomas. Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you've seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe." (John 20: 29*) I love passages of Scripture like this one where Jesus blesses future believers.

The message of this song forms a concrete foundation for my first solo record and my ministry.

COMPLETE

(Andy Chrisman, Matthew West, Jason Ingram)

In today's "extreme makeover" society, so many people are searching for the perfect life—money, a big beautiful home, a perfect job, fame, etc. But the Bible is very clear about where our fulfillment lies—in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The ultimate joy of life is found in not being accepted by the world, but knowing we are loved just as we are by the One who died to make us acceptable.

Can I just say it was a blast writing with Matthew and Jason?! Those guys have a real talent for making worship fun.

ATMOSPHERE

(Andy Chrisman, Scott Krippayne, Jamie Kenney)

For me, there is something very cozy about being inside my house during a storm. Even though a storm may be raging around me, there are four strong walls surrounding me and a sturdy roof over my head. Comparing that feeling to my relationship with Christ, no matter what's going on around me, I am still at peace. God changes my atmosphere. During times of drought, He brings rain. In times of darkness, He brings light.

When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, he provided a cloud by day to protect them from the heat of the sun. At night he provided fire to light their way and to bring warmth. He brought water forth from a rock and provided manna for their daily bread. He has proven to us that He will always be our nourishment.

If a hurricane invades my life, I may lose power or have trees down, but I'll still have peace and joy because God is my atmosphere and He is in control.

DEBT OF GRATITUDE

(Andy Chrisman, Luke Brown)

In an acceptance speech for an award given to U.S. service members for their service, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that he and the nation "owe a debt of gratitude" to America's troops for their dedication, professionalism, and "the sacrifice that they're willing to make...."

That phrase, "owe a debt of gratitude," really resonated with me. I thought of Paul's words in Romans 13:8*, "Pay your debts as they come due. However, one debt you can never finish paying is the debt of love that you owe each other...."

The debt of love we owe is one debt that we'll never fully repay. Yet, it has been given to us freely, if we'll accept it. The first verse of the song says, "You brought me back to life/You healed my broken heart/You've given me my sight/You've taken me by storm." Lazarus was brought back to life, Mary Magdalene was healed of a broken heart, Jesus gave the blind man his sight, and he took the disciples "by storm." When we finished the song, I realized it was actually my autobiography.

When I was four years old I was hit by a car in the parking lot at my brother's baseball game. One of his coaches resuscitated me several times before the ambulance arrived. At the hospital, the doctors told my parents that I would not live through the night. But, God, in His mercy "brought me back to life."

The accident dislocated a muscle in my left eye, causing me to be cross-eyed for some time, and the prognosis was that I may never again see out of that eye. It was an emotionally painful time for me—being teased by other kids, unable to play sports and having to wear a patch. But, God, through the hands of some amazing physicians, healed me and gave me back my sight. He got me through it all. So, this song is very literal for me. And spiritually, "what can I ever do to thank [Him]?"

EVERYTHING

(Andy Chrisman, Greg Bieck, Tyler Hayes-Bieck)

I have a long time friend who will often put his arm around me and say, "Andy, do you know what I like about you?" And I'll say, "No, what?" To which he'll reply, "Everything." That's the way I feel about God. I love everything about Him—everything God does for me is good. I know that He will never do anything to harm me.

My life verse is Romans 8:28*, which says, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom He has called according to His plan." When difficult things happen to us, God is there to say, "I can take this situation and use it for your good." "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope." Jer. 29:11*

ADORE YOU

(Andy Chrisman, Matthew West, Jason Ingram)

I'm a real fan of mixing the old and the new. In my worship services, I'll usually find a way to sneak in an old hymn next to a modern worship song. Jason brought in this idea of rewriting "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", so immediately I was intrigued. And his first line just floored me—"Here I am in wonder at the thought of your splendor. And if I'm to lift a note in Your direction, let it speak of who You are." Wow!

This song is one of those rare songs where you just sit back and worship. It is an awesome privilege to be able to come into the presence of God.

WHAT'S LEFT TO SAY

(Andy Chrisman, Jamie Kenney)

I remember one day my wife and I were driving in the car and it was one of those rare moments of quietness. We'd just finished praying together and this non-lyrical "thing" popped into my head, so I recorded it into my phone.

I'd been working on this idea about offering up to God "a thousand hallelujahs." How can we tell Him how we truly feel? No matter what we say or do, it seems that there still should be more. He is infinite in power and ideas. We are so limited. As humans we run out of things to say and ways to say it, but our heart can speak so much deeper than our words and actions. That "da-da-da thing" fit perfectly with the idea of where the song was going. "There's a language only the heart can speak."

I Sam. 16:7* says, "God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart." This song is about letting your heart go in worship unto the Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

(Andy Chrisman, Scott Krippayne, Jamie Kenney)

Jesus said in Matthew 4:4*, "A person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks." The Bible is God's WORD. It is the living Word of Jesus Christ. Our guidebook. Our lives will never reach their fullest potential unless we learn what God says about us in His Word.

God's Word does not belong on a shelf, but in our hearts and minds. God's plan for us is revealed in His Word. It teaches us right and wrong and provides accountability for us. Today it is popular in society for people to write their own moral code for living. But, the Bible is and always should be the standard for morality. The answer to every decision we face in life is found in God's Word.

THE ONE

(Andy Chrisman, Shawn Shankle, Cindy Morgan)

Several years ago I wrote a song called, "Forevermore", and it was one of the first songs I brought to the table for this album. That song developed into "The One." It's based on the blessing found in the last passage of the Book of Jude*, "Before time began, now, and for eternity glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

God cares for us so much that he "collects our tears in a bottle." (Psalm 56:8*) Nothing we do or go through goes unnoticed. I've always been fascinated by the thought of a savior that is at once the all powerful creator and the friend that sticks closer than a brother.

KING ABOVE ALL

(Andy Chrisman, Chris Rodriguez)

The guitar melody that Chris Rodriguez had written inspired me to go to Revelation 5: 13*. "To the one who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise, honor, glory, and power forever and ever."

The words and melody just flowed. There was such an anointing in the room when this song was crafted. It's going to be an amazing scene when we first see our Creator face to face. This is my vision of what it might be like when we get there.

LOVE REMAINS

(Andy Chrisman, Jamie Kenney)

This song was one of those unexpected gifts. Jamie Kenney and I have known each other for nearly ten years. One day I stopped by his house and he played me this tune he'd be writing. I was stunned by the beauty of it. Several hours later we had a couple of verses written and a pretty good idea that this would be the closing song on the record.

This song represents a life-encompassing testimony for both Jamie and myself. I've seen God in so many ways and through it all, He has been constant and true. He remains.

* All Scripture references are GOD'S WORD® Translation.