

As the Deer



Capo 2nd fret to play the chord patterns on this sheet.

Words & Music by Martin Nystrom © 1984 all rights reserved

Sing along with All Saints Virtual Gospel Choir @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zW9bNPPi7q8>

C Em7 Am G7 G6

As the deer panteth for the water,

G6 Gsus4 F G C

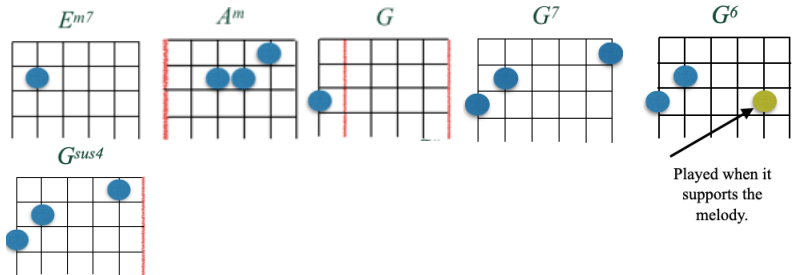
So my soul longeth after You.

C Em7 Am G7 G6

You alone are my heart's desire,

G6 Gsus4 F G6 C Em7

And I long to worship You.



CHORUS

Am C/E F C
You alone are my strength my shield;

Dm Dm/C Dm7 F E

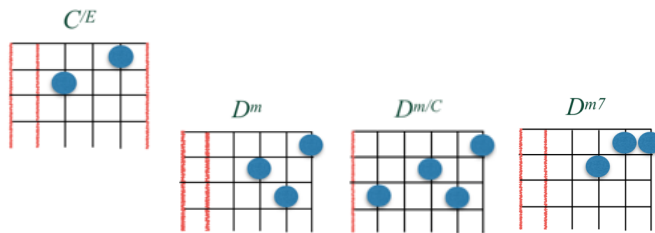
To You alone may my spi - rit yield.

C Em7 Am G7 G6

You alone are my heart's desire,

G6 Gsus4 F G6 C

And I long to worship You.



C Em7 Am G7 G6

I want You more than gold or silver;

G6 F G C

Only You can satisfy.

C Em7 Am G7 G6

You alone are the real joy giver,

G6 Gsus4 F G6 C Em7

And the apple of my eye.

C Em7 Am G7 G6

You're my friend and You are my brother,

G6 Gsus4 F G C

Even though You are a King.

C Em7 Am G7 G6

I love You more than any other,

G6 Gsus4 F G6 C Em7

So much more than anything.

CHORUS

CHORUS

Scripture and History

While **Psalm 42** is often attributed to the “sons of Korah” [*The Sons of Korah were an important branch and a major guild of Temple singers (see 2 Chronicles 20:19), and descendants of Moses' cousin Korah.*], the text is written in the first person singular. Matthew Henry speculates that David might have composed this psalm when he was prevented from returning to the sanctuary in Jerusalem either due to persecution by Saul or because of Absalom’s revolt.

Psalm 42 For the leader. *A maskil* of the Korahites. **I** As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God? My tears have been my bread day and night, as they ask me every day, “Where is your God?”

Those times I recall as I pour out my soul, when I would cross over to the shrine of the Mighty One, to the house of God, amid loud cries of thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.

Why are you downcast, my soul; why do you groan within me? Wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my savior and my God.

II My soul is downcast within me; therefore I remember you from the land of the Jordan* and Hermon, from Mount Mizar,

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your torrents, and all your waves and breakers sweep over me.

By day may the LORD send his mercy, and by night may his righteousness be with me! I will pray to the God of my life,

I will say to God, my rock: "Why do you forget me? Why must I go about mourning with the enemy oppressing me?"

It shatters my bones, when my adversaries reproach me, when they say to me every day: "Where is your God?" Why are you downcast, my soul, why do you groan within me? Wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my savior and my God.

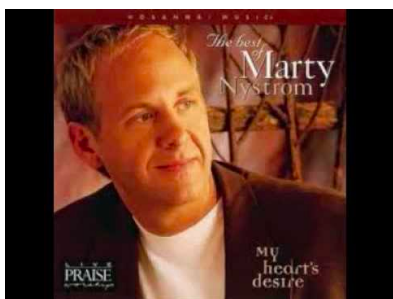


Origen, the great Christian author of the third century, explained that the human search for God is a never-ending venture because progress is ever possible and necessary. In one of his homilies on the *Book of Numbers* he writes: "Those who make their journey on the road to seek God's wisdom do not build permanent homes but mobile tents, for they are in constant movement covering new ground, and the further they go, the more the road that lies ahead of them opens up, presenting a horizon lost in immensity" (*Homily XVII, In Numeros [on Numbers] GCS VII, 159-160*).

From thedivinelamp.wordpress.com

Marty Nystrom wrote the New Testament version of Psalm 42. The Old Testament plea in verse 3, "When can I enter and see the face of God?" has now been answered in Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

In 1984 Marty used his summer off from teaching in Seattle to spend time at the Christ For the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas.



Marty's roommate at CFNI was a very enthusiastic Christian and challenged Marty to go on a fast, to consume nothing but water as a way to draw himself back toward God.

Marty related what happened during the fast to the *St. Augustine Record's* Lindsay Terry: "I took up the challenge, and on the 19th day of the fast I found myself sitting at a piano trying to write a song. I was simply playing chord progressions when I noticed a Bible on the music stand of the piano. It was open to Psalm 42. My eyes fell on the first verse of that chapter...

'As the hart (deer) panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.' After reading the verse I began to sing its message, right off the page. I wrote the first verse and the chorus of a song, pretty much straight through. The whole of the adventure was completed in a matter of minutes. I then repeated the song I had just written. I wanted to seal it in my mind."

"I had no intention of showing the song to anyone," Marty continued. "It was to be for my own devotional time with the Lord. However, before leaving the school to go back to Seattle, I did share it with one person, Dave Butterbaugh. He introduced it to the students of the school and it became a favorite."

The words and the melody that Marty composed resonated with many. Since the introduction of the song, it has been translated into several languages and is sung in churches worldwide.

From Rick Larson and www.songfacts.com/lyrics/martin-nystrom/as-the-deer