

## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

-Ryan Parsons-

While I am not a bold public singer or song leader, I do love songs. Since becoming a Christian, hymns have become my heart songs, and it isn't uncommon to have one on my heart for days or weeks. Interestingly enough, I don't usually know how it got there. I believe the Spirit embeds it on my soul on repeat and plays it over and over again until I get the point. Recently my heart song has been "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Thomas Chisholm, the author of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and 1200 other poems was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1866, and he lived a pretty unremarkable life: he worked as a school teacher, a newspaper editor, and insurance agent, then he retired and spent his remaining days at the Methodist Home for the Aged in New Jersey. Unlike many hymns that have heart-wrenching stories behind them (for instance "It Is Well With My Soul"), "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis. He wrote, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness." The hymn reminds us that God doesn't only work in dramatic or miraculous ways, but also in simple, everyday ways. It also reminds us that Jesus has never failed us in the past, so we have no reason to doubt his faithfulness in the future. — Greg Scheer, 1994, [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org)

Lamentations 3:22-24

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."

May your new year be filled with the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness.  
Ryan