

“ON HOLY GROUND” by John Starnes

Watch for the signs illustrated here within the song as noted.

American Sign Language does not follow English as spoken or sung word for word, but is a conceptual language. These song sheets are provided to acquaint you with various signs furthering knowledge of the deaf culture language. Please feel free to keep this song sheet and share the devotional.

VERSE 1

As I walked through the door I sensed His presence
 And I **knew** this was a place where God abounds
Here
 For this is the Temple Jehovah God **abides here**
Here
 And we are standing in His **presence** ↓ on Holy Ground
His Presence

CHORUS

We are standing on Holy Ground
 And I know that there are angels all around
 Let us praise Jesus now
 We are standing in His **presence on Holy** ground.
His Presence

VERSE 2

In His presence there is joy beyond all measure
 And at **His feet** peace of mind can still be found
Presence
 So if you **have a need** I know God has the answer
Presence
 Oh just **reach out and claim** it child, you're standing on Holy Ground
Presence (reach up and bring His presence into your own heart)

CHORUS

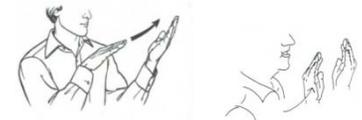
ENDING

Let us praise, Let us Praise, Jesus now.
 We are standing in **His presence**. We are standing in **His presence**.
His Presence His Presence
 We are standing in His **presence on Holy** ground.
His Presence



PRESENCE (in earthly context)

Hold the left flat hand at eye level with palm in and fingers pointing up. The right flat hand, palm out, moves up to face the left palm.



PRESENCE (in religious context)

In this song the signs flow from "His" to "presence." The beginning position of the right hand is (in the "His" position). The right hand is then flipped and brought down to face the left hand that is held with palm facing out to indicate "heavenly presence coming down to us" vs. the right hand starting below and raising to face the left hand (as described in the picture of the sign for presence) which would be the presence of two people here on earth.

By understanding the religious context you can see how the signs have been combined and adapted to convey "His presence within you" in this song. The palms touching is non-standard, but makes the sign more intimate and have more meaning.

HERE

With both open hands with a short repeated circular movement toward each other in front of the body, palms facing up and fingers pointing forward.



HIS

Push the palm of the open right hand, fingers pointing up, forward to the right with a double movement.



In the religious context, the sign for "His" is the right hand **faced out and raised high** to indicate Jesus above and not straight out **in front of the body** which would indicate a fellow person here on earth. **In the religious context** flowing from "His" to "presence" the right hand comes down, but does not go below the left to keep the authority of God above us.

THE NEXT TWO SIGNS

"The two signs "His" and "presence" in a religious context refer to "Jesus in Heaven."

Joy ... In His Presence

by Craig von Buseck

<http://www1.cbn.com/devotions/Joy-In-Presence-of-God>



It was a major time of transition in my life, and things didn't appear to be working out. I was working for a ministry, but was having a hard time making ends meet. I was getting by month-to-month, but just barely. I was having a hard time maintaining my joy.

I grew up in a Christian family and learned at an early age that joy was not dependent on circumstances. "Joy," I was taught in Christian school, "came from having your priorities straight: **Jesus, Others, then You (J.O.Y.).**"

I thought my priorities were in line. I was serving God and others in the ministry. But I wasn't making enough money to maintain a good margin in my life. So I wasn't feeling **J.O.Y.**; I was feeling **STRESS**. But when I went to work I'd see all these folks who seemed to be full of joy, despite their circumstances.

One man in my office, William, stood out above all the others. He was always bubbling over with the joy of the Lord. He would greet others in the hallway with a "God is good, all the time," or with a "Praise the Lord." One day I stopped William and told him that I admired how he displayed the joy of the Lord in his daily life and speech. I asked if he would lay hands on me and impart this gift. I fully expected him to happily put his hand on my shoulder and pray for me. So I was absolutely shocked when he replied, "No, I will not." He must have seen my look of surprise as I groped for words to reply. He quickly added, "The Bible tells us in **Psalm 16:11** that '*in His presence is fullness of joy.*' If you want joy in your life, you need to get into the presence of the Lord. He is the only one who can fill you with joy."

I was reminded by my friend William that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Fruit is not imparted. Fruit grows. Fruit must be nurtured. The fruit of the Spirit comes by abiding in the Vine. Jesus said, "**Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.**" (John 15:5, NLT)

William did pray for me, but instead of imparting joy, he prayed that I would have a hunger and thirst for God's presence. I walked away a little bewildered by the encounter. But as I thought about what William said I realized that he was sharing biblical wisdom.

When I got off work that day I walked down to the chapel and closed the door behind me. After several moments of prayer and praise the stress of the day started to lift and I began to sense the sweet presence of the Lord. As I knelt in prayer and worshipped my Creator, slowly I felt my joy returning to me. Since that time, like the Apostle Paul, "**I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.**" (Philippians 4:12-13, NLT)

Sign Source: [Signing, How to Speak with Your Hands](#), Elaine Costello, Illustrated by Lois A. Lehman, page 135, CCL

Hands In Praise is an American Sign Language Choir sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church of Windsor, Colorado. You are invited to join the choir and no experience is necessary. For more information, contact: Choir Director, Elaine Mainwaring at 970-686-5319 or elainemain@ymail.com or go to www.bethelwindsor.com Click MORE, Click MINISTRIES, Click HANDS IN PRASIE.