

## His Favorite Song BY LAURA SHAW

When was the last time you heard a fine orchestra play a piece of music? I was listening to the classical genre this evening...headphones on, eyes closed. I envisioned the instrumentalists playing. The pieces I enjoyed the most started out quiet and simple, with just a violin. One by one, instruments were added to make the most beautiful sound—again, more instruments—then the dynamics took it up a notch to the climax of the song where my heart began to beat out of my chest, the big bass drum vibrating to the point where I was only **moments away** from crying for a valium! Just in time, the music began to fade and ended a few deep breaths later with a simple violin. I felt like I had completed a total body workout without my feet ever having left the ottoman! I'm sure it's no coincidence the Lord led me to a passage of Scripture almost immediately following my non-physical cardiovascular experience with Beethoven.

### 2 Peter 1:5-8, NIV

*“...make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**, and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to godliness, **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness, **love**. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I love the way The Message translation by Eugene Peterson puts it:

*“So don't lose a minute **building on what you've been given, complementing your BASIC faith** with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, EACH DIMENSION FITTING INTO AND DEVELOPING THE OTHERS. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.”*

You see, just like the orchestra starts with one beautiful instrument and is great on its own to make a song, our faith in Christ is enough to save us and give us the hope of heaven. And similar to the way the other instruments add so much depth and beauty to the song, the spiritual qualities mentioned above make our lives on earth more effective, productive and mature in our faith walks.

What are we to add? To develop? **GOODNESS, KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, PERSEVERANCE, GODLINESS, KINDNESS TO OTHER CHRISTIANS, AND LOVE**. How do you think our Life Songs sound to others without these qualities? It may seem difficult to live this way, but here's the awesome part: Just as the end of the orchestra piece ends calmly and quietly--so our simple, resting faith gives us the means to develop the qualities above, because our Savior is the only One who can bring them about in us. The verses preceding 5-8 remind us of this truth:

### 2 Peter 1:3, NIV

*“His divine power has given us **EVERYTHING WE NEED** for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by **HIS OWN glory and goodness**.”*

He called us, He saved us, and NOW, if we are willing, He will produce the fruit in us. My prayer in this quiet but stirring moment is that we as Christians would not settle for just “being saved.” Oh, that we would realize the gift we've

been given, praise Him, fall on our faces before His powerful face, ask and then humbly allow the Lord in faith to add each beautiful trait of His to us, one by one--each building upon the other to make the perfect melody. He has given us everything we need to do so, and that should be our favorite song of all--His heart song, written especially for His listening pleasure!