

**Once I had a fervent heart**  
Consecration — Returning to the Lord

8353

1. Once I had a fervent heart, And growth in Christ did seek. Sadly now I love the world; My walk with Him is weak.  
Day and night I was refreshed, In tes-ti-mo-ny bold, Minding not the suf-fer-ings, But now my heart is cold.

**Chorus**  
(C) How was I distracted— The Father to ig-nore? In deep grief He act-ed, How can my heart ignore?

The musical score is written in G-flat major (three flats) and 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of the verse, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the chorus. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Ab, Eb, Ab, Fm, Bbm, Eb7, Ab in the first line; Ab, Eb, Ab, Fm, Bbm, Eb7, Ab in the second line; and Ab, Db, Ab, Eb, Ab, Db, Cm, Fm, Bbm, Eb7, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab in the chorus line.

**2. Once I yielded all my heart.**

Not serving for reward;  
But the world has used me now;  
I'm with the worldly hoard.  
Once I worshipped, now I roam,  
Indulging to amuse;  
Wasting days, repenting not;  
I precious grace refuse.

**3. Once my heart loved only Him,**

And time with Him would keep;  
Ardently I thought of Him  
In waking and asleep.  
Worldly favor then I shunned,  
The things did disregard;  
Now those worldly things I seek,  
By earth I now am marred.

**4. At His throne I knelt each day,**

And glory filled my heart;  
Union to His will I vowed,  
Nor wanted to depart.  
Happily my choice I'd lose,  
None else but His to seek.  
But much time has passed since then;  
My zeal for God is weak.

**5. Lab'ring vainly 'neath the sun**

Like shadow and like wind,  
Far from His directed flock,  
To vanity did tend.  
Things of earth will soon be gone;  
Why let them rule my soul?  
Once I watched for His return;  
Why take the wav'ring role?

**6. Soon the Morning Star appears;**

All life on earth grows short.  
This foul place I then must leave,  
Unto His arms resort.  
Satan and his world reject,  
Taste new grace once again,  
Now regain my long lost love,  
Refuse my shameful stain.

To His path returning,  
All the world ignoring,  
Glory soon appearing  
I'd suffer willingly.