

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

8353

1. Once I had a fer - vent heart, And growth in Christ did seek.  
Sad - ly now I love the world; My walk with Him is weak.  
Day and night I was refreshed, In tes - ti - mo - ny bold,  
Mind - ing not the suf - fer - ings, But now my heart is cold.  
**Chorus**  
(C) How was I dis - tract - ed— The Fa - ther t'ig - nore?  
In deep grief He act - ed, How can my heart ig - nore?

2. Once I yielded all my heart.  
Not serving for reward;  
But the world has used me now;  
I'm with the worldly horde.  
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.