

One Awful Word Which Jesus Spoke

John Newton, 1779.

George Chadwick, 1888.

One awful word which Jesus spoke,
Against the tree which bore no fruit;
More piercing than the lightning's stroke,
Blasted and dried it to the root.

But could a tree the Lord offend,
To make Him show His anger thus?
He surely had a farther end,
To be a warning word to us.

The fig tree by its leaves was known,
But having not a fig to show;
It brought a heavy sentence down,
"Let none hereafter on thee grow."

Too many, who the Gospel hear,
Whom Satan blinds and sin deceives;
We to this fig tree may compare,
They yield no fruit, but only leaves.

Knowledge, and zeal, and gifts, and talk,
Unless combined with faith and love,
And witnessed by a Gospel walk,
Will not a true profession prove.

Without the fruit the Lord expects
Knowledge will make our state the worse;
The barren trees He still rejects,
And soon will blast them with His curse.

O Lord, unite our hearts in prayer!
On each of us Thy Spirit send;
That we the fruits of grace may bear,
And find acceptance in the end.