

Long Have I Seemed To Serve Thee, Lord  
by Charles Wesley

1 LONG have I seemed to serve thee, Lord,  
With unavailing pain;  
Fasted, and prayed, and read thy word,  
And heard it preached in vain.

2 Oft did I with the assembly join,  
And near thine altar drew;  
A form of godliness was mine,  
The power I never knew.

3 I rested in the outward law,  
Nor knew its deep design;  
The length and breadth I never saw,  
And height, of love divine.

4 To please thee thus, at length I see,  
Vainly I hoped and strove;  
For what are outward things to thee,  
Unless they spring from love?

5 I see the perfect law requires  
Truth in the inward parts,  
Our full consent, our whole desires,  
Our undivided hearts.

6 But I of means have made my boast.  
Of means an idol made;  
The spirit in the letter lost,  
The substance in the shade.

7 Where am I now, or what my hope?  
What can my weakness do?  
Jesus, to thee my soul looks up,  
'Tis thou must make it new.