

# ELEVATION

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FOR THE HONOR

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# WORSHIP

## *Stories Behind Selected Songs*

### **Exalted One**

Based on Psalm 121, “Exalted One” was inspired by last year’s Christmas [sermon] series called “The Highest.” We write a lot of songs to introduce for a series, but this one was written during the series. We never played it during the series, but since then it has become one of the songs that our church really sings with passion.

### **The Lord Is My Rock/You Lifted Me Out**

This song is particularly personal for Wade. In 2008, Wade and his wife had twin daughters, born prematurely. One of his daughters, Lianna, had serious medical complications and the prognosis wasn’t good. But Wade and his wife believed the Lord would move, inspired by pastor Steven’s teaching series about audacious faith. “The church rallied around us for three months,” Wade says. “The way they loved on my family and walked through this valley with us, it changed my heart about what God can do through us. Doctors thought Lianna would be a vegetable, but the church was praying, and God healed our girls. So that song, based on Psalm 18, represents our story and the miracle. It’s one of those faith monuments, reminding us of what God has done.

### **For the Honor**

We’ve never been scared to tackle concepts here at Elevation, to say ‘here’s what we’re about.’ “For the Honor” started as a text from pastor Steven. He texted a picture of his journal with the words: “for the honor of the savior, let the cross be lifted high...” He said, ‘I want to write a song about honor and I want it to feel like a hymn.’ Restoring honor to this generation, valuing people is the core of this church, and the heartbeat of our pastor. So we took that idea and ran with it, and from the first time we introduced it, it just took off. It resonated with our people in a very powerful way.

### **God Be Praised**

Sparked by the idea that through Jesus’ shame, we have life, that He had to go through that in order for us to be alive in Him, “God Be Praised” was birthed by the team during a songwriting retreat. “We wanted to use different imagery and emotion to communicate what Jesus did for us on the cross,” London says. “We wanted to emphasize that He alone is worthy of our praise.”

### **The Church**

Pastor Steven has often said, 'The church is the change the world is waiting for.' That idea is such a monumental theme in our history, our culture. If we want to see our city change, it has to start in our church. In the wake of the earthquake in Haiti in 2009, people in our church began to reaching out to minister to people in need... in Haiti and in our own city. One of Chris' friends, a local surgeon rounded up a team of doctors to go to Haiti on a medical mission. Watching him prepare, Chris began forming the lyric around the idea of the church rising up to change the world.

### **Give Me Faith**

So many of our people are new believers; walking into this for the first time. This song was introduced in our fall push 2-3 years ago. It's a song about walking in faith, believing God in the midst of not knowing what's coming next... Chris had written a very personal bridge lyric and melody several months before we finished it: 'My flesh may fail, but God you never will. I may be weak, but your Spirit' is strong in me.' You sing a lyric like that, and you want to be there. You're not there yet, but you want to believe. There's an honesty in this song that people really connect with.

### **All Things New**

A collaborative effort, written specifically for the record, this song speaks to why Elevation exists as a church, so that people far from God will be filled with new life in Christ. It's about God taking us as we are, putting to death the things that have held us back and letting God shape us into a new creation. The song was introduced to the church when we did it for the recording. We gave rough demos to our volunteers beforehand, but the night of the recording was the first time we'd played it. Unlike a lot of our songs, it's a slower building song, so we were interested to see how it would go over. The spirit in the room was so overwhelming in the room, with people singing, 'you're making all things new, and we are free...' It was so powerful, pastor Steven, following the spirit's lead, hopped up on stage and presented the Gospel, not worrying about all the logistics, just doing what God called him to do... it's probably the most powerful.

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