

Brighten the Corner Where you Are

G D
Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do

G
Do not wait to shed your light afar

D
To the many duties ever near you now be true

G D G
Brighten the corner where you are

CHORUS

G D
Brighten the corner where you are

G
Brighten the corner where you are

C
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar

G D G -----
Brighten the corner where you are --3--3--0-----0-----
-----2----- (pause)
-----4--2--0---

slowly Just above are clouded skies that you may (D) help to clear
Let not narrow self your way de (G) bar
Though into one heart alone may fall your (D) song of cheer
speed up (G) Brighten the corner (D) where you (G) are!

CHORUS

slowly Here for all your talent you may surely (D) find a need
Here reflect the bright and Morning (G) Star
Even from your humble hand the (D) Bread of Life may feed
speed up (G) Brighten the corner (D) where you (G) are!

REPEAT CHORUS TWICE

Brighten the Corner Where you Are

The lyrics to "Brighten the Corner" were written in 1913 by Ina Duley Ogdon. Ina Ogdon planned to make a career as a lecturer in the Chautauqua circuit. The goal of the Chautauqua was to deliver educational, spiritual, and cultural stimulation to rural and small-town America. But Ina's plans were changed when her father suffered a paralyzing stroke, and he was taken in to live with she, her husband, and their 11-year-old son. The lyrics to this song are said to have been written to cheer her father up.

She sent the poem to Charles H. Gabriel, who wrote the music for it and sent it on to a singer he knew for Billy Sunday, a baseball player-turned- traveling evangelist. The song instantly became popular at his traveling tent revivals, so much so that he adopted it as his theme song and started using it in every service. Her original plan had been to bring enlightening messages to isolated parts of America, and soon her message became known throughout much of the world.

It became one of the most popular songs of the first half of the twentieth century, with more than 25 million copies having been printed. In 1916, Theodore Roosevelt used it to begin political rallies across the country, and it was one of the favorite hymns of American soldiers in World War I. In Nanking China, in 1925, the local baseball team chose it as their team song, and it was sung before every game. When U.S. forces in the south Pacific invaded Tarawa Atoll in 1943, the natives welcomed their liberators by singing "Brighten the Corner," having learned it from American missionaries years earlier.

It has been recorded by singers as diverse as Ella Fitzgerald, The Browns, The Mills Brothers, Burl Ives, and many others.