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I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795580765471991

Discovering the Timeless Appeal of I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords

There are songs that simply transcend generations, carrying with them the weight of history and the lightness of hope. **"I'll Fly Away"** is one such piece. Originally a gospel standard penned by Albert E. Brumley in 1929, this hymn has been covered by countless artists across every conceivable genre. Among the most beloved modern interpretations is the version by the folk-rock band Jars of Clay. For guitarists and singers looking to capture that specific blend of reverence and warmth, mastering the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**is a rewarding journey. This article delves deep into the song's structure, the specific chords used in the Jars of Clay arrangement, and practical tips to bring this classic to life with your own instrument.

The Legacy of a Gospel Standard

Before diving into the technical aspects of the chord progression, it is important to understand the weight of the song itself. "I'll Fly Away" speaks to a fundamental human longing for liberation from earthly struggles and the promise of a peaceful afterlife. Its simple, yet powerful, lyrics have made it a staple in churches, bluegrass festivals, and folk sing-alongs for nearly a century. When Jars of Clay included their rendition on albums like *Redemption Songs* (2005) and *Greatest Hits*, they brought a new, acoustic sensitivity to the tune. They stripped back the sometimes-twangy bluegrass elements and injected a gentle, introspective folk quality. This is what makes the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**so appealing to modern acoustic players: it is accessible enough for beginners but rich enough for seasoned musicians to add their own flair.

Why the Jars of Clay Version Resonates

Jars of Clay are known for their intricate harmonies and layered guitar work, yet their version of "I'll Fly Away" is surprisingly straightforward in its core arrangement. This is a testament to the song's strength. The band focuses on the melody and the emotional delivery rather than complex technical showmanship. When you learn the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**, you are learning an arrangement that prioritizes feel over flash. The tempo is slower than many bluegrass versions, giving each chord time to ring out and breathe. This makes it an excellent song for campfires, church services, or intimate acoustic sets.

Essential Chords for the Song

To play the Jars of Clay version accurately, you need to be comfortable with a few primary open chords. The song is typically played in the key of G major, which sits beautifully on the guitar. The core chords you will use are G, C, D, and Em. However, the magic lies in the passing chords and the subtle extensions that Jars of Clay employs. When searching for **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**, you will often find variations that include a G7 or a D7 to add that slight "bluesy" or "gospel" tension that resolves so sweetly.

The Primary Chord Progression

The verse and chorus follow a very logical structure. Here is the basic skeleton of the chord progression as played by Jars of Clay:

- Verse: G - G - C - G / G - D - G (with a passing D7 or G7)
- Chorus: G - C - G - D / G - C - G - D - G

It looks simple on paper, but the rhythm and the specific voicings make the Jars of Clay version distinct. They often let the G chord ring with the high E string open, creating a bright, jangly sound that is characteristic of their acoustic work.

Breaking Down the Verse

Let us examine the verse section in detail. The lyrics for the first verse are: "Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away." The chord changes are directly tied to the phrasing of these words.

1. Opening Phrase (G to C): The song starts on a G chord. The shift to the C chord happens on the word "life." It is a gentle lift that mirrors the feeling of moving from the earthly to the spiritual.
2. Return to G: The progression quickly returns to G, solidifying the tonal center.
3. The Turnaround (D to G): The line "I'll fly away" resolves on a D chord moving to G. In the Jars of Clay arrangement, they often hold the D chord slightly longer than expected, adding a moment of anticipation.

When searching for accurate **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**, pay attention to the timing. The D chord is not rushed. It is allowed to ring against the vocals, creating a beautiful tension that makes the return to the G chord feel like a warm embrace.

Mastering the Chorus

The chorus is the most recognizable part of the song: "I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away." This section is where the emotional peak occurs. The chord progression is a classic I-IV-V-I pattern (G-C-D-G), but Jars of Clay adds dynamic nuance.

Dynamic Shifts in the Chorus

While the chords remain the same, the feel changes. In the Jars of Clay version, the chorus often features a slight increase in strumming intensity. The guitarist might switch from a gentle fingerpicking pattern to a fuller strum. When you practice the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**, try this:

- Play the verse with a soft, thumb-driven bass note pattern.
- Switch to a steady down-up strum for the chorus.
- Use the C chord as a launching pad to build volume.

This dynamic contrast is what makes the performance feel alive. It is not just about playing the right chords; it is about how you play them.

Fingerpicking vs. Strumming

One of the most common questions regarding the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**is whether the song is best played with a pick or with fingers. The answer is that both work, but they create different textures.

Fingerstyle Approach

Jars of Clay often uses a fingerpicking style that mimics a gentle banjo roll. You can achieve this by playing a simple pattern on the G chord:

- Bass note (6th string) with your thumb.
- High G (1st string) with your ring finger.
- B string (2nd string) with your middle finger.

- High G again.

This creates a rolling, circular sound that is perfect for the verses.

Flatpicking Approach

For the chorus, a flatpick allows for more power. Use a loose wrist and try a "boom-chick" pattern (bass note on the beat, strum on the off-beat). This drives the song forward and gives it that folk-rock energy.

Common Chord Variations and Substitutions

To truly capture the essence of the Jars of Clay arrangement, you can add a few subtle substitutions. Many tablature sites for **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords** include these nuances:

- G7 instead of G: Use a G7 (320001) on the last chord of the verse before the chorus. The Bb note in the G7 adds a touch of melancholy that makes the resolution to C or G sound sweeter.
- Dsus4: Instead of playing a standard D (xx0232), try a Dsus4 (xx0233) and then resolve it back to D. This creates a "lifting" sensation that perfectly matches the lyrics about flying.
- Cadd9: Playing a Cadd9 (x32030) instead of a standard C (x32010) gives the song a fuller, more open sound. This is a staple of contemporary acoustic folk music.

These variations are not strictly necessary, but they are the secret ingredients that make the Jars of Clay version feel polished and unique.

Capo Placement and Key Considerations

While the song is usually taught in the key of G, Jars of Clay sometimes uses a capo to shift the pitch to better suit the lead singer's vocal range. A very common placement for this song is the 3rd fret.

If you place a capo on the 3rd fret and play the same G-C-D shapes, you are actually playing in the key of Bb. This can sound brighter and more "sparkly" on an acoustic guitar. When looking for **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**online, always check if the tab specifies a capo position. If no capo is listed, the standard open G position is your safest bet.

Lyrics and Chord Integration

One of the best ways to learn the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**is to integrate the lyrics directly with the chord shapes. Here is a breakdown of the first verse and chorus with suggested chord placements:

Verse 1:
Some (G)glad morning when this (C)life is o'er,
I'll (G)fly a(D)way.
To a (G)home on God's ce(C)lestial shore,
I'll (G)fly a(D)way. (G)

Chorus:
I'll (G)fly a(C)way, O (G)glory, I'll (D)fly a(G)way.
When I (G)die, Hal(C)lelujah, by and (G)by,
I'll (D)fly a(G)way.

Notice how the chord changes happen on the stressed syllables. "Glad" is on the G, "life" is on the C. This is a classic example of "lyric-driven" chord changes, which is a hallmark of good hymn writing.

Strumming Pattern Deep Dive

Getting the strumming pattern right is often more important than the chords themselves. For the Jars of Clay version, a 4/4 time signature with a gentle swing is used. Here is a pattern to practice:

- Down, Down-Up, Up-Down, Up.
- Count: 1, 2 and, 3 and 4 and.

This pattern works beautifully for the verses. For the chorus, you can simplify it to a steady "Down-Down-Up-Down-Up" to build momentum. The key is to keep your wrist loose and let the guitar breathe. The **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**are forgiving; even a simple down-strum on each beat will sound good if your timing is solid.

Tips for Singing While Playing

This song is a crowd favorite precisely because it is easy to sing and play simultaneously. However, there is a specific challenge regarding the **I Ll Fly Away Jars Of Clay Chords**: the pauses. In the Jars of Clay arrangement, there are moments where the instrumentation drops out briefly, leaving the voice alone. To practice this, try humming the melody while just holding the G chord. Once you have the melody memorized, the chord changes become automatic.

- Start slow: Use a metronome at 70 BPM.
- Simplify the strum: Just play one strum per measure on the beat.

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