SOFTWARE & TECH

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood Chords

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Introduction: The Timeless Appeal of “There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood”

For centuries, hymns have served as a bridge between the human soul and the divine. Few hymns have resonated as deeply as “There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood,” a powerful confession of redemption and grace penned by the English poet and hymnodist William Cowper in the 18th century. The haunting melody and profound lyrics have made it a staple in churches, worship services, and personal devotions around the world. But for many musicians, worship leaders, and guitar enthusiasts, the first step toward sharing this hymn is mastering the chords that bring it to life. Understanding the **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords** is not just about playing notes; it’s about unlocking the emotional and spiritual depth of the song. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the history of the hymn, break down its chord progressions for both guitar and piano, offer practical playing tips, and discuss how to adapt the song for modern worship settings—all while ensuring you gain a solid, natural grasp of the essential chord shapes and variations.

The Story Behind the Hymn: William Cowper’s Gift of Grace

Before diving into the technical aspects of the **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords**, it is worthwhile to understand the context in which this hymn was written. William Cowper (1731-1800) suffered from severe bouts of depression and spiritual despair. Yet, out of his deepest struggles came some of the most hopeful lines in hymnody. The imagery of a fountain filled with blood is drawn directly from the Bible—specifically from Zechariah 13:1, which speaks of a fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. Cowper’s lyrics beautifully capture the paradox of the cross: that Christ’s sacrificial blood is both a fountain of cleansing and a source of eternal life.

The original tune most commonly associated with the hymn is “CLEANSING FOUNTAIN,” a melody that suits the simple, heartfelt nature of the text. Over time, many alternative arrangements and modern renditions have emerged, but the core chords remain remarkably consistent. Whether you play the traditional version or a more contemporary arrangement, knowing the basic chord progression provides the foundation for all other interpretations.

Understanding the Basic Chord Structure

The hymn is most frequently set in the key of G major because of its singable range and friendly chord shapes for guitar. A standard progression for the verses follows a pattern that is both predictable and emotionally satisfying. The primary chords you will need are:

- G major (the tonic)
- C major (the subdominant)

- D major (the dominant)
- Em (the relative minor, often used to add depth)
- Am (a minor chord that appears in some versions)

For a typical four-line verse, the progression might look like this:

1. G   —   D   —   Em   —   C
2. G   —   D   —   G   —   G
3. G   —   C   —   G   —   D
4. G   —   D   —   G   —   G

Of course, there are many variations. Some versions, especially those for piano or in a different key, may use chords like B minor or F# minor. But for the guitarist who wants to accompany a congregation or lead a small group, the **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords** in G major are by far the most accessible.

Chord Diagrams for Guitar (Text Representation)

Since we are unable to include images, here are the standard finger positions for each of the essential chords in open position:

- G major: Place your middle finger on the 3rd fret of the low E string, ring finger on the 3rd fret of the B string, and pinky on the 3rd fret of the high E string. Strum all six strings.
- C major: Ring finger on the 3rd fret of the A string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the D string, index finger on the 1st fret of the B string. Strum from the A string down, avoiding the low E if you prefer.
- D major: Index finger on the 2nd fret of the G string, ring finger on the 3rd fret of the B string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the high E string. Strum only the top four strings.
- E minor: Place your middle finger on the 2nd fret of the A string, ring finger on the 2nd fret of the D string. Strum all six strings.
- A minor: Index finger on the 1st fret of the B string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the G string, ring finger on the 2nd fret of the D string. Strum from the A string down.

Practice transitioning between G and D, then G and Em, and finally G and C. These changes form the backbone of the hymn.

Step-by-Step Guide to Playing the Hymn

1. Start with a Simple Strum Pattern

For a traditional, reverent feel, use a slow down-up picking pattern. A common approach is to strum down on the first and third beats, and up on the second and fourth beats, with a slight pause on the “and” of beat two. For example: **Down, up, down, up**(with the down on the strong beats). This pattern creates a gentle, flowing rhythm that suits the hymn’s character.

2. Add Dynamics for Emotional Expression

The hymn’s lyrics move from confession to joy. In the first verse (“There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins”), play softly with a lighter touch. As you transition to the chorus or later verses (especially “And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains”), increase your strumming intensity and perhaps add a bass note pickup on the D chord for emphasis.

3. Fingerpicking Options

If you enjoy fingerstyle guitar, you can arpeggiate the chords. For G, pluck the low E string (3rd fret) with your thumb, then the G string (open) with your index, the B string (3rd fret) with your middle, and the high E string (3rd fret) with your ring finger. Follow a similar pattern for the other chords. This approach works beautifully for intimate settings or solo accompaniment.

Variations for Different Skill Levels

Beginner Level

If you are new to guitar, focus on mastering the open chords G, C, D, and Em. Practice the progression slowly with a metronome set at 60 beats per minute. Do not worry about fancy strumming; just strum each chord once per measure or use two downstrokes per chord. The goal is clean chord changes and steady timing.

Intermediate Level

Once you are comfortable with the basic **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords**, experiment with adding a passing chord between G and D, such as G/B (a G chord with a B in the bass). This adds a subtle movement. You can also try a D/F# instead of a plain D to create a smoother bass line. Another intermediate technique is to use a capo on the 1st fret, which will transpose the chords to G#/Ab—great if the key feels too low for the vocalist.

Advanced Level

Advanced players can explore alternative voicings. For instance, play the G chord as a barre chord at the 3rd fret (form a G shape barre) for a fuller sound, or use a Cadd9 (x32030) instead of a plain C for a more contemporary flavor. You may also incorporate a walkdown bass line: for the transition from G to Em, hammer on the open low E string to the 2nd fret (F#) before landing on Em. This classical touch elevates the hymn without overwhelming the melody.

Lyrics with Embedded Chords

To help you play along, here are the first two verses of the hymn with the **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords**written inline (in the key of G). Simply follow the chord above the syllable where the chord change occurs.

Verse 1:

(G) There is a fountain (D) filled with blood
(Em) Drawn from Immanuel’s (C) veins,
(G) And sinners plunged beneath (D) that flood
(G) Lose all their guilty (G) stains.

Chorus (often repeated):

(G) Lose all their guilty (D) stains,
(Em) Lose all their guilty (C) stains,
(G) And sinners plunged beneath (D) that flood
(G) Lose all their guilty (G) stains.

Verse 2 (partial):

(G) The dying thief rejoiced to (D) see
(Em) That fountain in his (C) day,
(G) And there may I, though vile as (D) he,
(G) Wash all my sins a- (G) way.

As you practice, you will notice that the chord changes happen on the first beat of each line, with occasional internal changes on words like “plunged” or “rejoiced.” Listen to a recording of the hymn to internalize the rhythm.

Playing for Worship: Tips for Leaders

If you are leading a congregation using the **There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood chords**, consider these

practical tips:

- Choose an appropriate tempo: A slower tempo (around 70-80 BPM) allows the lyrics to sink in. Do not rush—the hymn is meditative.
- Use a capo if needed: If the melody sits too low or high for the vocalist, move the capo. For example, capo on the 2nd fret lets you play the G shapes but the sound is in A major—often a sweet spot.
- Add a simple instrumental break: After the final verse, repeat the chord progression softly on guitar or piano as a transition into prayer or silence.
- Arrange for multiple instruments: A bass player can root on the low notes (G, C, D, Em), while a pianist can fill with inversions. Guitarists can trade off between strumming and fingerpicking.
- Modernize the arrangement: Some contemporary worship versions of the hymn incorporate a steady eighth-note pulse, a kick drum on beats 1 and 3, and a synth pad. While you may not want to stray too far from tradition, a gentle groove can make the hymn feel fresh for younger congregations.

Beyond the Basics: Exploring Different Keys

While G major is

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