

## Elvis – The King of Gospel

Elvis had a significant connection with gospel music throughout his life and career. His journey as a gospel singer began in his childhood and continued until his death in 1977. Here's a detailed look at the start and progression of Elvis as a gospel singer:

### Early influences and beginnings

#### 1. Childhood exposure

- **Family and Church:** Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1935. His family was deeply religious, and he was exposed to gospel music at a young age through his attendance at the Assembly of God Church, where he sang in the choir.
- **Inspiration:** Gospel music left a profound impact on young Elvis. He was inspired by local gospel quartets and the powerful performances he witnessed in church.



#### 2. Early performances

- **Youth competitions:** Elvis participated in youth talent shows and often performed gospel songs, showcasing his early passion for the genre.
- **Influences:** Artists like Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Statesmen Quartet, and the Blackwood Brothers greatly influenced him.

## Professional career and gospel music

### 1. Sun Records era (1954-1955)

- While Elvis's initial recordings with Sun Records were primarily rockabilly and rhythm and blues, his gospel roots were evident in his vocal style and choice of songs.

### 2. RCA Records and breakthrough (1956)

- **First gospel recording:** Elvis's first gospel recording was "I Believe" in 1956. He included gospel songs in his albums and live performances.
- **Integration into rock and roll:** Even as he rose to fame with rock and roll hits, Elvis continued to express his love for gospel music. He often included gospel songs in his albums and live performances.

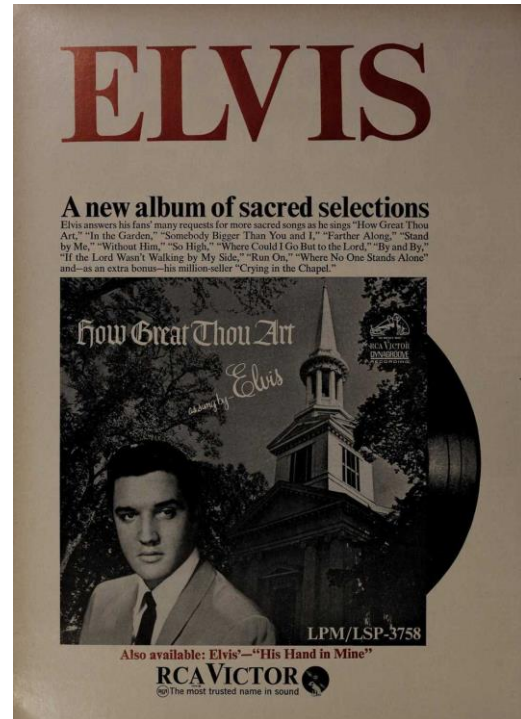
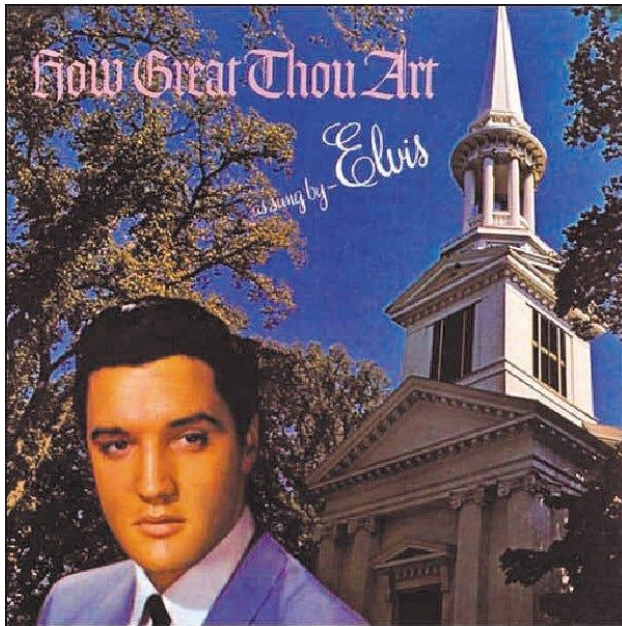
## Dedicated gospel albums and recognition

### 1. Gospel albums

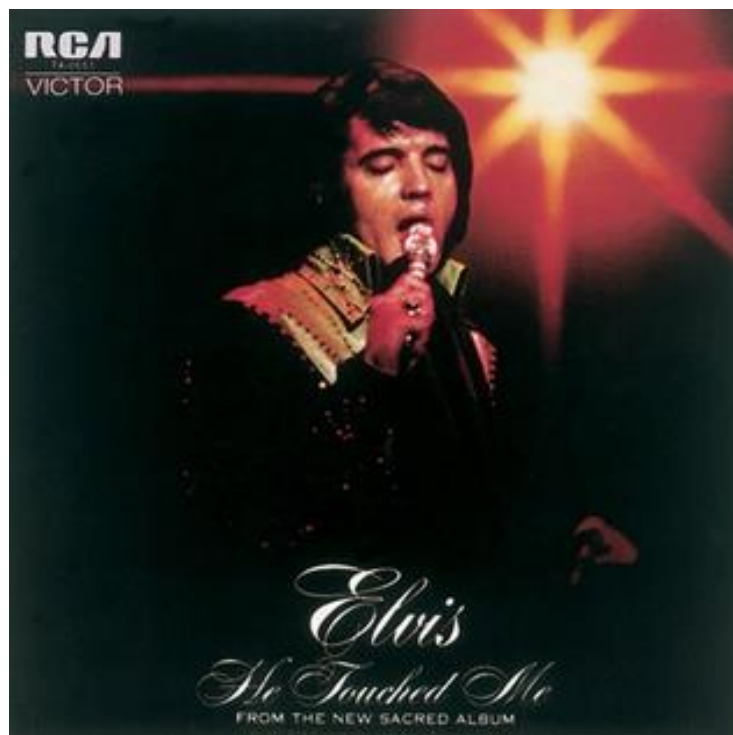
- **"His Hand in Mine" (1960):** This was Elvis's first full-length gospel album, featuring traditional gospel songs. It was a commercial success and demonstrated his commitment to the genre.



- **"How Great Thou Art" (1967):** This album won Elvis his first Grammy Award and featured the title track, which became one of his signature gospel songs.



- **"He Touched Me" (1972):** This album earned Elvis another Grammy Award and included contemporary gospel songs, showcasing his versatility within the genre.



## 2. Live performances and personal passion

- **Concerts and tours:** Elvis often performed gospel songs during his concerts, and his renditions were well-received by audiences.
- **Informal sessions:** He frequently held informal gospel jam sessions with his backup singers and band members, both during tours and at his home in Graceland.

## Later years and legacy

### 1. Continued dedication:

- Throughout the 1970s, Elvis continued to record and perform gospel music. His passion for the genre remained strong despite his struggles with health and personal issues.

### 2. Influence and impact:

- Elvis's gospel recordings have had a lasting impact on both his fans and the music industry. His ability to convey deep emotion and spirituality through his gospel performances is often cited as a testament to his talent and sincerity.

3. **Posthumous releases:** After his death in 1977, several compilations and reissues of his gospel recordings were released, further cementing his legacy as a gospel singer.

## Compilations and Albums Featuring Posthumous Gospel Releases

### "He Walks Beside Me" (1978):

This compilation album, released a year after Elvis's death, includes gospel tracks like "He Is My Everything," "Miracle Of The Rosary," and "Help Me."

### "Elvis: A Legendary Performer Volume 2" (1976):

Released shortly after Elvis's death, this album features the gospel track "I, John," which was recorded in 1971 but not widely known before this release.

### "Amazing Grace: His Greatest Sacred Performances" (1994):

This extensive two-disc compilation includes many of Elvis's beloved gospel recordings, such as "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "He Touched Me," alongside some tracks that were not widely available before.

**"Peace in the Valley: The Complete Gospel Recordings" (2000):**

This comprehensive collection features all of Elvis's gospel recordings, including previously unreleased tracks and alternate takes, providing a full picture of his gospel music legacy.

**"Platinum: A Life in Music" (1997):**

This box set includes a variety of Elvis's work, including rare and previously unreleased gospel tracks like "You'll Never Walk Alone" (take 2) and "Run On" (take 6).

Elvis Presley's journey as a gospel singer began in his early childhood and remained a significant part of his musical career until his death. His dedication to gospel music, evident through his recordings, live performances, and personal passion, contributed to his lasting legacy in the genre. His gospel albums, which earned him critical acclaim and awards, continue to be celebrated by fans and music historians alike.

## Read further

---

**ELVIS PRESLEY,  
GOSPEL SINGER**



**AN INSPIRATIONAL LIFE**

Madeleine Wilson

---

<https://www.elvisinonet.com/Interview-Madeleine-Wilson-Elvis-Presley-Gospel-Singer.html>

I still rely on the "King" to get me through tough times. There's nothing a live recording of "How Great Thou Art" can't fix for me.

**Read More:** [I Never Met Elvis Presley, but He May Have Saved My Life | https://999ktdy.com/i-never-met-elvis-presley-but-he-may-have-saved-my-life-cj-explains/?utm\\_source=tsmclip&utm\\_medium=referral](https://999ktdy.com/i-never-met-elvis-presley-but-he-may-have-saved-my-life-cj-explains/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral)

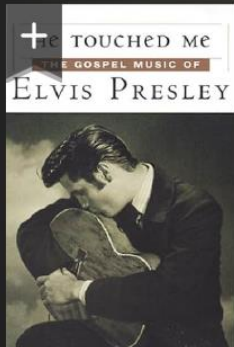
**How Great Thou Art, the song Elvis Presley received two Grammys for.**

<https://fb.watch/tzcv5UGbbh/>

Brian & Sally's Corner

## He Touched Me: The Gospel Music of Elvis Presley

Video · 2000 · Approved · 3h



Documentary

Music

It's just the great Elvis singing his favorite music...Gospel music during concerts and with his backup musicians after concerts. Awesome!!! Real!! Raw energy!!

**Director** [Michael Merriman](#)

**Writer** [Michael Nolan](#)

**Stars** [Sherman Andrus](#) · [Bill Baize](#) · [James Blackwood](#) >

**IMDbPro** [See production info at IMDbPro](#) ↗

<https://www.elvispresleyshop.com/he-touched-me-the-gospel-music-of-elvis-presley-dvd/>