

WHO AM I?

1. Who am I?
I'm so calm, they say;
confident and cheerful,
sure in every way.
Ah, but am I really so secure?
Whoever I am, dear God,
you know I'm yours.
2. Who am I?
I'm different than they say —
got a restless heart that's aching,
so wearily I pray;
I'm like a bird that's caged
behind closed doors.
Whoever I am, dear God,
you know I'm yours.
3. Who am I?
Am I one or two?
Full of strength, or weakness?
Am I false or true?
Though I never understand my flaws
whoever I am, dear God,
you know I'm yours.

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Based on what I think is a remarkable poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It's included in the collection Letters and Papers from Prison. That such an outstanding man – pastor, theologian, writer, leader – should feel the same self doubt as the rest of us is a comfort for all ordinary struggling Christians who are uncertain about their identity. That God knows us as we are is an even greater comfort.