

We Shall Overcome

History: "'We Shall Overcome' is a gospel song that is associated heavily with the U.S. civil rights movement. The origins of the song are unclear; it was thought to have descended from 'I'll Overcome Some Day,' a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, while the modern version of the song was first said to have been sung by tobacco workers led by Lucille Simmons during the 1945-1946 Charleston Cigar Factory strike... In 1959, the song began to be associated with the civil rights movement as a protest song... It quickly became the movement's unofficial anthem. Seeger and other famous folksingers in the early 1960s, such as Joan Baez, sang the song at rallies, folk festivals, and concerts in the North and helped make it widely known. Since its rise to prominence, the song, and songs based on it, have been used in a variety of protests worldwide."

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday,

(Chorus)

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe,
That we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand...

We shall live in peace...

We are not afraid (today)...

We are not alone (today)...

We shall overcome (today)...