



We Shall Not Be Moved

African-American Spiritual
Performed by Mavis Staples

[LISTEN](#)

MAVIS STAPLES (b. 1939), American gospel and soul singer who was an integral part of the Staple Singers as well as a successful solo artist. [LEARN MORE](#)

ABOUT THE SONG

"**We Shall Not Be Moved**", also known as "**I Shall Not Be Moved**", is an African American Slave Spiritual, hymn and protest song dating to the early 19th century American south, as a slave jubilee. The song describes being "like a tree planted by the waters" who "shall not be moved" because of faith in God. Secularly, as "We Shall Not Be Moved" it gained popularity as a protest and union song of the Civil Rights Movement.

The text is based on biblical scripture:

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:3

In 1908 Alfred H. and B. D. Ackley copyrighted a hymn by the name "I Shall Not Be Moved".

One of the earliest available recordings is by Blind Roosevelt Graves (1929)

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INTRO {A,2m}

REFRAIN 2X

We... Shall Not, We Shall Not Be Moved

We... Shall Not, We Shall Not Be Moved

Like A Tree... That's Planted By The Water...

We... Shall Not Be Moved...

- 1) The Union Is Behind Us, We Shall Not Be Moved
The Union Is Behind Us, We Shall Not Be Moved Just Like A Tree
That's Planted By The Water
We Shall Not Be Moved
- 2) We're Fighting For Our Freedom, We Shall Not Be Moved
Fighting For Our Freedom, We Shall Not Be Moved
Like A Tree That's Planted By The Water
We Shall Not Be Moved
- 3) Fighting For Our Children, We Shall Not Be Moved
We're Fighting For Our Children, We Shall Not Be Moved
Like A Tree That's Planted By The Water
We Shall Not Be Moved
- 4) Black And White Together, We Shall Not Be Moved
Black And White Together, We Shall Not Be Moved
Just Like A Tree... That's Planted By The Water
We Shall Not Be Moved, Oh....

REFRAIN 3X or Repeat Out

(African-American Spiritual) - Mavis Staples w/Ry Cooder

INTRO {A,2m}**REFRAIN 2X***{A} We... Shall Not, {E} We Shall Not Be Moved...**{E} We... Shall Not, {D,2} We Shall Not Be {A,2} Moved**Like A {D} Tree... That's Planted By The {A} Water...**{A,2} We... Shall {E,2} Not Be {A} Moved...*

- 1) The {A} Union Is Behind Us, {E} We Shall Not Be Moved...
The {E} Union Is Behind Us, {D,2} We Shall Not Be {A,2} Moved...
Just Like A {D} Tree... That's Planted By The {A} Water...
{A,2} We... Shall {E,2} Not Be {A} Moved...
- 2) We're {A} Fighting For Our Freedom, {E} We Shall Not Be Moved...
{E} Fighting For Our Freedom, {D,2} We Shall Not Be {A,2} Moved...
Like A {D} Tree... That's Planted By The {A} Water...
{A,2} We... Shall {E,2} Not Be {A} Moved...
- 3) {A} Fighting For Our Children, {E} We Shall Not Be Moved...
We're {E} Fighting For Our Children,
{D,2} We Shall Not Be {A,2} Moved...
Like A {D} Tree... That's Planted By The {A} Water...
{A,2} We Shall {E,2} Not Be {A} Moved...
- 4) {A} Black And White Together, {E} We Shall Not Be Moved...
{E} Black And White Together, {D,2} We Shall Not Be {A,2} Moved...
Just Like A {D} Tree... That's Planted By The {A} Water...
{A,2} We Shall {E,2} Not Be {A} Moved...

REFRAIN 3X or Repeat Out