

Worthy Women's Words

Praising God In Song *by Barbara Qualls*

One of the more joyful aspects of our Christian worship, as women, is our participation in the admonition to sing. In Col. 3:16, we are reminded to "Let the words of Christ dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God". While some of our songs are literally psalms set to music, most of our songs would be classed as hymns and as such have been written by men.

Our hymnals provide information about the lyricist and also the composer of the music. And many provide the scripture that has been the source of the inspiration for the writer. Knowing something of



the background of the song has helped me to better understand and appreciate some of the songs that we sing.

The words to "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" were written in 1561 by an Englishman and are based on Psalm 100. In 1707, Isaac Watts wrote the deeply moving words to "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". It was said to be the first to use the pronoun, "I", and many would class it as the finest hymn in the English language. Possibly most of you have heard the story about John Newton, who had been the captain of a slave ship when he was very young. He had renounced his former life when he wrote "Amazing Grace" in 1779.

During the 1800's there were many writers, both men and women, in our own country. Most of us would recognize the name of Fanny Crosby. She was the writer of over 8000 hymns, sometimes writing only the words but sometimes both the words and music.

These songs include "Safe in the Arms of Jesus", "To God Be the Glory" and "Blessed Assurance". Perhaps we can appreciate her all the more when we know that she was blinded when only six weeks old. A doctor mistakenly prescribed a hot mustard poultice for her eyes, but even with these unfortunate circumstances she wrote these words when she was only eight years old:

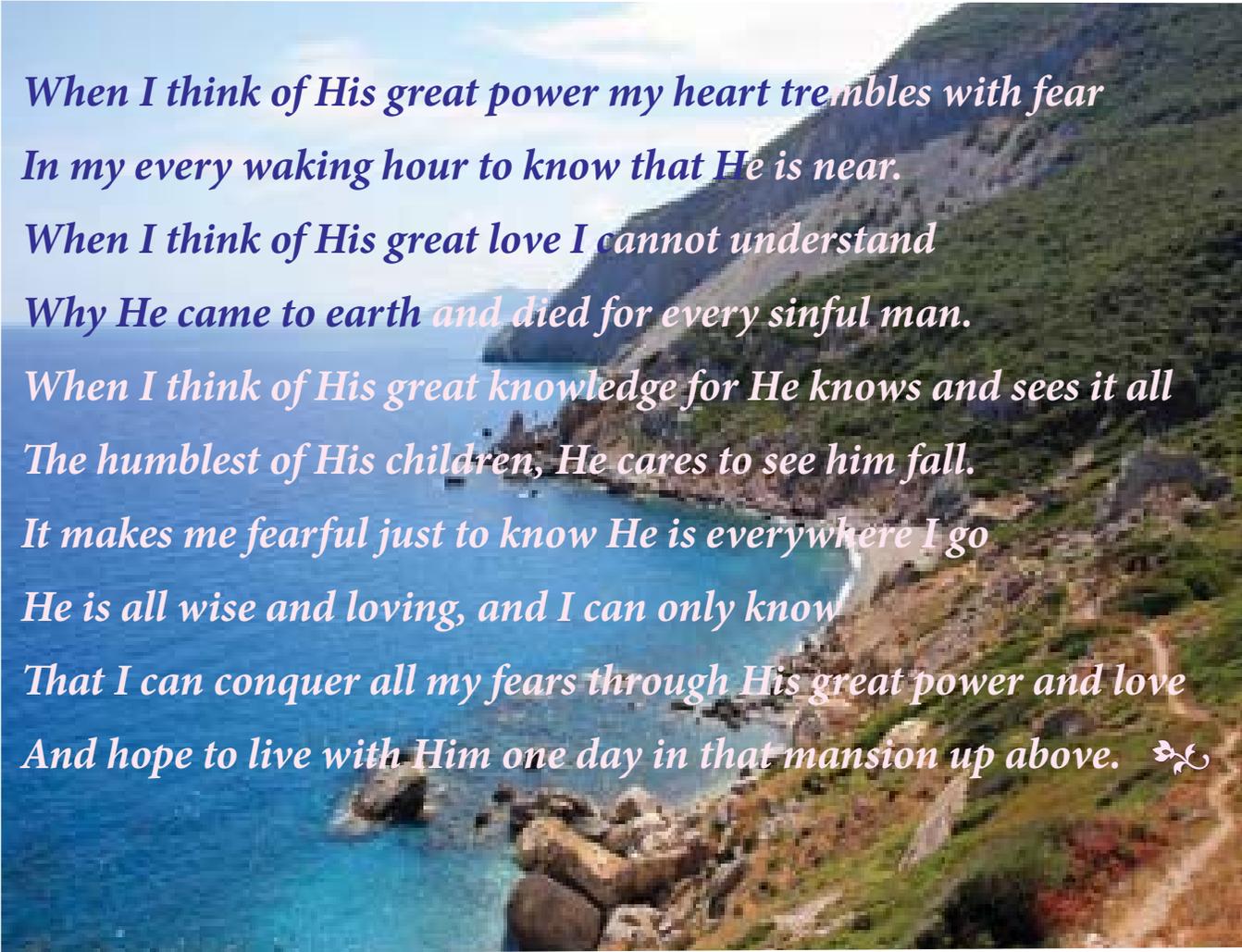
*"Oh what a happy child I am,
although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world,
contented I will be."*

—Fanny Crosby

There were many hymns written during the 1900's by Christian men. Tillet S. Teddlie was a prolific Texas writer of many songs that we sing, including, "Worthy Art Thou", "Earth Holds No Treasures" and others. L. O. Sanderson wrote the music for "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "Be With Me Lord" among others.

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His Greatness *by Mary Lou Campbell*



*When I think of His great power my heart trembles with fear
In my every waking hour to know that He is near.
When I think of His great love I cannot understand
Why He came to earth and died for every sinful man.
When I think of His great knowledge for He knows and sees it all
The humblest of His children, He cares to see him fall.
It makes me fearful just to know He is everywhere I go
He is all wise and loving, and I can only know
That I can conquer all my fears through His great power and love
And hope to live with Him one day in that mansion up above. ❁*

Praising God In Song *concluded*

R. J. Stevens has written several hymns as well as published a book of hymns that many of us have sung from in other congregations.

Many of our hymns written during the last quarter of a century have been written in a different format than the standard several verses followed by the chorus. We have been blessed with beautiful hymns written by Christian women. Glenda Schales,

whose father, Glen Barnhart, was once a teacher at Florida College, has written many beautiful and meaningful hymns. These include “For You Have Promised” and “You Are My Strength”. Another contemporary writer is C. E. Couchman. She has written the words and music for a number of songs—as well as the music for the beautiful words of Matthew Bassford in the song, “Exalted”.

Our hymnal here at Temple Terrace gives the dates for the lives of the writers and also the scripture that served as an inspiration for the words. If we are truly teaching and admonishing others in our singing, we should be very mindful of those words. My hope is that we can be encouraged to pay closer attention to the thoughts we are singing as we do our best to praise God in our songs. ❁