

## BLESSED ASSURANCE

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU THE ASSURANCES I HAVE IN SERVING THE LORD. IF YOU WILL SURRENDER TO THE LORD YOU CAN HAVE THE SAME ASSURANCES.

One of my favorite hymns is "Blessed Assurance". It goes something like this:  
*"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God. Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood. This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long."*

These old songs or hymns are so anointed! Singing them or just reading the lyrics brings peace and sometimes tears of joy like no other songs can! When you feel the anointing of God you know God has approved the song.

I don't know if you have ever heard the story behind this wonderful song but I would like to share it with you.

The lyrics of Blessed Assurance were written in 1873 by Fanny Crosby to the music written in 1873 by Phoebe Knapp. Fanny Crosby, is America's most prolific hymn writer. She wrote 8,000 Gospel songs and hymns during a lifetime, which spanned nearly a century. She passed away in her 95th year. This is especially remarkable when one finds out she was blind. All of her days, except the first six weeks, were spent in blindness. However, not even the loss of eyesight could render defeat to this astoundingly courageous soul. Aunt Fanny, as she later was affectionately called, also wrote 1,000+ nonreligious songs, and had four books of poetry and two best-selling autobiographies published.

Frances Jane Crosby was born in Putnam County, New York, on March 24, 1820. A poorly trained doctor applied a mustard plaster poultice to her eyes when she was only six weeks old, rendering her totally blind. Even in her childhood, she realized she had a special gift. She often said, "I have a jewel - content."

When only 9 years of age, she wrote: "O what a happy soul am I, Although I cannot see, I am resolved that in this world Contented I will be. How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't. To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot, and I won't.

During her 15th year, she entered the New York Institute for the Blind. Her record there was such that after graduation, she was asked to teach at the institute. She remained on the faculty for 11 years.

She told S. Trevena Jackson her little "love story," which he recorded in his book, "Fanny Crosby's Story of Ninety-Four Years," She said . . . "Some people seem to

forget that blind girls have just as great a faculty for loving, and do love just as much and just as truly as those who have their sight. When I was about 20, a gifted young man by the name of Alexander Van Alstyne came to our institute. He was also blind and a musician. We soon became very much concerned for each other...I placed my right hand on his left and called him 'Van.' From that hour, two lives looked on a new universe, for love met love, and all the world was changed. On March 5 in the year 1858, we were united in marriage."

I became a mother and knew a mother's love, but the angels came down and took our infant up to God.

One day in 1873, Aunt Fanny was visiting with a friend, Mrs. Joseph Knapp, a musician of sorts and wife of the founder of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. During their visit Mrs. Knapp played a tune on her piano, which she had recently written. She then asked Fanny, "What does this tune say?" After kneeling in prayer for a few moments, she rose and declared, "It says, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!'"

Aunt Fanny began to dictate verses to Mrs. Knapp, who wrote them down, fitting them to the melody just as we hear it sung today.

Truly this was an amazing awesome woman God used to bless and enlighten countless men and women of the powerful gift of Grace that God has given mankind.

The Blessed Assurance this precious woman wrote of and no doubt experienced throughout her life is still available to all who would simply believe and embrace it. If you have not experienced this awesome event in your life I urge you to ask God to forgive you of your sins now and receive His Son Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

Dozens of scripture come to mind when I think of His Blessed Assurance. Allow me to share and comment on a few in hopes they will bless and encourage you.

God has given us a message that is called "The Word of Faith". **What is the Word of Faith for? PROSPERITY? MONEY, CARS, HOUSES?** We find the answer in Romans the tenth chapter. *"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* **[Romans 10:8-13].**

We see how **very important the "Word of Faith" is** and why it must be preached

## Receiving eternal life is obtained by faith!

We are saved by believing, not by our works! *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" [Ephesians 2:8-9].* Unfortunately, this is hard for some people to believe! They think, surely there is something else that I have to do?

Eternal life is a free gift from God Almighty! Jesus Christ paid the supreme price for their eternal life by His shed blood on the Cross! If they could only believe this, they would experience His "Blessed Assurance" continually no matter life's difficulties. As another favorite song of mine said, *"I owed a debt I could not pay. He paid a debt He did not owe".*

It all boils down to faith! It takes faith to believe the Gospel! Here is a favorite verse that asks us to believe, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" [John 3:16].* This is God's Word, but do you really believe it? It says plainly that if we believed in God's precious Son, we would have everlasting life.

If we believe on the Son, we have eternal life! *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" [John 3:36].* The word "hath" means (to have, hold, possessed with, possession). Did you realize you already have eternal life if you are a true believer?

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" [John 6:47].* With verses like these in the Bible it's a wonder anyone could doubt that Eternal Life is a free gift received by faith alone.

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" [John 5:24].* Here again, Jesus is very clear about the salvation that comes by believing on Him.

I don't know about you but I have been translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son! When I got baptized in water, I was buried with Him in baptism and raised

with Him with a new life by faith! My old man died and my inner man experienced a resurrection! (Rom. 6:4 & Col. 2:12-14). I've been born again! ALL THINGS ARE NEW! I'm saved and I know that I am!

God will forgive our sins if we acknowledge and confess them. The Bible says if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1John 2:1).

Even in my weakness, He was always there with His loving arms outstretched for me. Praise God! Although we may fail Him, He is always faithful and will never fail you.

*"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one"* [John 10:28-30]. Notice there is not any man that can pluck a believer out of Christ's hand.

THE WILL OF GOD: *"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day"* [John 6:39-40]

Again Jesus is clear. He states that it is God's will that He should not lose a single one of those who the Father has given Him.

The will of the Father is that every believer should have the Blessed Assurance they will be raised up from the dead to live forever with God in the new creation.

*"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"* [Ephesians 1:12-14].

This passage shows that every single believer is sealed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the moment they believe.

If you are "Born Again" you are no longer your own my friend, you have been bought with a price!

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" [Romans 8:38-39].*

The first thought that comes to my mind when I read these verses is, "No man can pluck you out of God's hand"!

Here are the verses that have impacted my life since I first read them after receiving my Grandfather's letter way back in 1962.

*"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God". [1John 5:10-13].*

If you are born again, I firmly believe you are in Grace, and you are saved! I would never deny this, for if I did, I would be denying the record that God has given of His Son.

Either you are saved, or you are not! You can't save yourself with your own works of righteousness. If you could Jesus suffered and died in vain!

God's Grace teaches us to live godly in this present world (Titus 2:12). I have always tried my best to live a holy life based on the New Testament, not man's standards. In my early Christian walk with the Lord, I was once asked if I was trying to be saved by my works, referring to the holiness lifestyle I had chosen to live. I don't remember answering the person that asked this but no doubt this question inspired me to write the very first thing I ever wrote for the Lord. ***"I DON'T LIVE THE LIFE I LIVE TO BE SAVED . . . I LIVE THE LIFE I LIVE BECAUSE I AM SAVED"***

**BUT LET'S BE HONEST!** THESE ASSURANCES ARE FOR PEOPLE THAT WILL SERVE THE LORD! THERE ARE SOME THAT WILL TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO JUSTIFY THEIR SINS! THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS FOR SATAN USES THIS KIND OF THINKING TO TAKE MULTITUDES TO HELL!

THE GRACE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY TEACHES US HOW WE SHOULD LIVE OUR LIVES, Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

**Tit 2:12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**KNOW THIS MY FRIEND!** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

**1Co 6:10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1Co 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1Co 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1Co 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

1Co 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

1Co 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?**

**1Co 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**AND AGAIN, KNOW THIS: Gal 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Gal 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**THERE ARE 1050 COMMANDMENTS FOR THE BELIEVERS (NOT JUST SUGGENSTIONS)  
IN JUST THE NEW TESTAMENT!!**