

Blessed Assurance

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Born in 1828, Fanny Crosby took ill at six weeks of age. A local “doctor” prescribed an eye salve that soon blinded her for life.

As a result, she learned to develop her other senses, including a very keen memory and sense of creativity. After becoming a Christian, she used her wealth of memorized Scripture to compose more than 9,000 hymns.

Crosby held no animosity for the so-called doctor. She saw her blindness as a divine opportunity to impact the world for Christ, praying often that God might use her music to bring others to a saving faith in Jesus.

“Don’t blame the doctor,” Crosby once said. “He is probably dead by this time, but if I could meet him, I would tell him that he unwittingly did me the greatest favor in the world.”

Now for the rest of the story, as the late Paul Harvey used to say ...

One hundred years later, a young mother stood singing, “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.”

The setting was a small country church in rural central Maryland. She had begun to attend because friends had invited her, suggesting that the church would be a positive place to bring her children. Week after week, she sat in the pew, listening to the sermons and singing the hymns as her children attended Sunday school in the classroom below.

One Sunday, she came to the pastor and said she had had a revelation. She was singing the song, “Blessed assurance, Jesus Is Mine,” and suddenly realized she herself owned those words. There had been no bolt of lightning, no cathartic awakening – just an ever-growing sense and belief that Jesus had indeed lived and died in her place. God used the song to awaken her to the reality of her own new salvation, of her faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

As Fanny Crosby often proclaimed, “God is not the author of our infirmities, but He can certainly redeem them and use them for His glory.”

(more)



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Because of Fanny Crosby's submission to God's will, He continues to honor her faithfulness nearly a century after her death. No telling how many people have joined the eternal Kingdom of God because of her faith and works.

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*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.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

(Chorus)

*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.*

In his letter to the church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul said:

And He (Christ) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter