

Songs in the Night

The 17th Century German pastor and songwriter, Paul Gerhardt, faced many trials during his life. During the Thirty Years' War, he and his family were forced to flee their home.

One night, as they stayed in a small village inn, homeless and afraid, his wife wept openly in despair. To comfort her, Gerhardt reminded her of Scripture promises about God's provision and keeping. Then he went out to a garden where he, too, burst into tears.

Not long afterward, he sensed anew the presence of the Lord. He took a pen and began to write a hymn, the last lines of which are:

Give to the winds thy fears, and be thou undismayed; God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears – God shall lift up thy head.

Gerhardt had been given a song in the night. A short time later, God delivered the family from danger and gave the young pastor a new church.

Often, it is in the darkest times of life that God makes His presence known most clearly to us. Are you facing struggles right now? Take heart. In the midst of suffering, put your life in God's hands.

He still gives songs in the night.

--Beecher Hunter