

Devotion on Hymns of the Church (He Hideth My Soul) - 29 April 2014, Anno Domini
(In the Year of our Lord)



And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by. (Ex 33:21-22)

Today's hymn (He Hideth my Soul) is another by that great visionary of things heavenly, though she was blind to the things of this world – Fanny Crosby. Fanny was blind from infancy, but managed to write more than 9,000 (this is correct, 9,000) hymns – enough to fill 18 hymnals. She is, without doubt, the most prolific hymn writer in history; and her hymns are among the most beloved in our hymnals. Unfortunately, the 1940 Hymnal was remiss in failing to include this hymn as one of the great hymns of our church. Her life spanned almost 95 years from 1820 to 1915. Her hymn-writing career actually began near middle age and never slowed from that time. It would be difficult to imagine what the loss of such hymns as "Blessed Assurance," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour," "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross," and "Safe In The Arms Of Jesus," would mean to the church. The loss of sight tuned Fanny's soul to the melodies of and a clear vision of heaven.

The Lord is often referred to as our Rock and our Fortress. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Hiding Place and our Rock. As Mr. Toplady has so powerfully written, Jesus is our "Rock of Ages."

HE HIDETH MY SOUL

Fanny Crosby

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

(Refrain)

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
He taketh my burden away,
He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved,
He giveth me strength as my day.

With numberless blessings each moment He crowns,
And filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, oh, glory to God!
For such a Redeemer as mine.

When clothed with His brightness transported I rise
To meet Him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love,
I'll shout with the millions on high.

“A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me; He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, Where rivers of pleasure I see.” Our souls can become part of that River of Life that flows through the meadows and pastures of Eternity. The water that flows through the bedrock of the River is our Lord Jesus Christ for He is the Water of Life. He is wonderful beyond measure – **Wonderful** is His very name: *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful . . .”* (Isaiah 9:6a) That Cleft of the Rock is not visible to all passers-by – it is a Hidden Place for those who know and love His Wonderful Name. *“Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.”* (Psalms 32:7) The Lord not only hides us in safety, but He is our *“Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.”* (O worship the King). A true hymn is to teach Biblical truth. See how compellingly are the truths of the Bible presented in this hymn! *“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”* (Psalms 18:2-3)

“A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away, He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day.” The Lord Jesus Christ is our Burden-Bearer. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* (Matt 11:28-29) It is such a sad thing to see men and women struggling under their own windless sails to cross the sea of life. They are met by one contrary storm after another and fail to call upon the One Wind that can bring them to safe harbor – the Master of the Seas. With our Lord Jesus Christ as the *Anchor* (Hebrews 6:19) *for our souls*, we shall not be moved. We will sink our roots of faith deep into that Underground River of Sychar, which fed Jacob’s Well, for refreshment, and we shall not be moved. *“. . . like a tree planted by the rivers of*

water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.” (Psalms 1:3)

“With numberless blessings each moment He crowns, And filled with His fullness divine, I sing in my rapture, oh, glory to God! For such a Redeemer as mine.” The world can never comprehend how a Christian can be joyful and thankful under every stress of life while the world bears her stones of burden with such consternation. The Rapturous Swells of Joy that flow from hearts filled to the overflowing with the Love of Christ cannot be understood by those who have no faith. The Christian heart is *filled with His fullness Divine!* They will consider is to be a very *‘peculiar people.’* (1 Peter 2:9 & Titus 2:14). How proudly does a young child boast of the strength of his big brother in defending him! But what a Brother we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. So much more than a brother is He. *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”* (Job 19:25) Of course, the last and most important point about our Redeemer is that this Redeemer is OURS. If we do not own Christ as our redeemer, all else is lost.

“When clothed with His brightness transported I rise To meet Him in clouds of the sky, His perfect salvation, His wonderful love, I’ll shout with the millions on high.” You will recall that at the last glimpse of Jesus during His earthly ministry, He was received into a CLOUD! *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”* (Acts 1:9-11) Those who belong to Him shall likewise be received up into that same Cloud with our Lord. Remember how Jesus counseled those lepers whom He healed to tell no man; and how He advised the blind boy whose vision He restored to tell no man; and how often He told them whom He had healed to tell no man? He knew they could not; however, there was a lesson for us in those commands: when the Lord has done a great work and a wonder in our lives, how can we keep silence! How can you know the perfect answer for the problems that plague those you love, those who are your friends and neighbors, without crying out that answer that was satisfied for you in the Lord Jesus Christ? His salvation is Perfect. His love is Wonderful for He is Love.

“(Refrain) He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, That shadows a dry, thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand, And covers me there with His hand.” Love is perfect in and of itself. It cannot fail – only the lack thereof can fail. Since our Lord Jesus Christ is the very rock in which we find shelter, it is He who hides us there in the covert of His Heart. That dry, thirsty land is that land of sin and bondage from which we, as the Children of Israel, were led by that Rock. *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”* (1 Cor 10:1-4) Our very lives are sustained by His immeasurable Love. He covers every sin of our souls with His Hand – a Hand that is scarred and bruised by nine inch Roman nails; a Hand that has the names of every Redeemed of the Lord – not written thereon with brush or pen – but GRAVED (cut) into the soft sinews thereof. *“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.”* (Isaiah 49:15-16)

Do we hunger after the Lord as His love has hungered after us? Do we seek Him early, and seek after Him in the Sanctuary of our Hearts – and is that Sanctuary His own? *“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.”* (Psalms 63:1-2) Friend, did you seek the Lord early (at the first glimpse of daybreak or before)? Does your soul truly hunger after the Lord – enough to eat of the Bread of His Word daily? Do you long, as did the Maiden of Shulem in the Gardens of Solomon, for His Presence with you always? *“My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies. Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.”* (Song 2:16-17) Christ, to the Christian, is his All-in-All. Is He YOURS?