

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Jesus, Savior Pilot Me

(Larry Baulch)

In 1871, these words were written by Edward Hopper and published in *The Sailors Magazine*. He was an ordained minister who according to what I could find preached at the Church of the Land and the Sea, in New York City. When Mr. Hopper spoke of this hymn, He always referenced Mark 4:39: “*And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.*”

The good minister Hopper’s flock would have been very close - knit and would be much comforted by the wording of this hymn, and to the Biblical reference in Mark.

This hymn asks us to consider the narrative of Jesus during the terrible storm at sea; when He was stretching out His hands and calming not only the wind but also the sea saying *hush be still*. In the Mathew’s account he asks *you of little faith, why are you so afraid?*

This demonstrates that faith and prayer during life’s

storms will sustain us always. The first verse of this hymn raises the question about life’s stormy seas, asking us to consider that the problems, the heartache and the catastrophes large and small that happen to us in our lives should always be measured with our Lord’s love and understanding.

In the second verse we have the comparison of Christ stilling the waves and wind as a mother would still her child. This allows us the understanding of our relationship with our Lord, and of course the submission in faith we must have to our God. Remembering the refrain Jesus, Savior pilot me, we could read this as “guide me.”

Therefore we need to consider that our Lord will make all of our dilemmas bearable. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 Paul writes *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.* The Lord will

not allow things to be so unbearable in our lives. 2 Peter 2:9 concludes, *then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.* We should therefore we keep His precepts and promises in our hearts.

In the last verse Edward Hopper wrote; *when at last I near the shore and the fearful breakers roar twixt me and the peaceful rest, then while leaning on Thy breast may I hear Thee say to me Fear not, I will pilot thee.* These simple words allow all of those that sing this hymn, and read these words to not only understand that all we need is our Lord and Savior; we need his understanding and our firm belief in Him to give us ever lasting life.

The next time we sing this hymn, let us remember Edward Hopper. Let us think about our singing, and along with the comfort and the feeling of well-being we receive from hearing an old hymn, let us focus on Jesus as our pilot through life’s struggles.