

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

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## Blessed Assurance

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**B**lessed assurance, Jesus is mine...

These are wonderful words of praise from a hymn that we sing during our song services to our Lord. This beautiful old hymn is still edifying those who sing and those who listen today.

Now, were you aware that these words are also carefully phrased as an epitaph on the headstone of a lady named Fanny Crosby?

Fanny Crosby wrote, *Blessed Assurance* in 1873. All together, she wrote about 8500 songs. The true count will never be known because the publishers of her day had so much of her work, that they published them under assumed names to continue making her work public.

In her youth she was an avid student. She loved all her studies, and achieved in all of them, except one. Which one? She wrote, “*I loathe, I abhor, it makes me sick, to hear the word, Arithmetic!*”

Through out her life she worked diligently for others.

Oh, did I fail to mention that she was blind, and had been so from the very tender age of six weeks, because of an inept doctor in Putnam County, New York where she was born? Later in life when asked about her blindness she said, “*It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to praise God if I had been distracted by the beautiful things about me.*”

The hymn, *Blessed Assurance*, although written over 125 years ago, holds great meaning for us today. The words are declaring to us that the Lord keeps his promises, but we only profit from them if we hold on to the first principles of our faith and keep our promises to him.

Hebrews 11:1 states, *now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Meaning that in keeping our faith and commitment to our Lord we can be confident and comfortable in the knowledge that the promises made by God through out the Bible will be kept by God

in all things, and in all times.

*“Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood”*

What confidence would we have if we were not sure of a forgiven past or a hopeful future? Being washed in the cleansing blood of Christ gives us confidence that our sins are washed away, and through his perfect sacrifice, we are redeemed from the despot slave owner, Sin (*1 Peter 1:18-19*). When we are baptized, we not only have our sins washed away, but we start over by being born of the Spirit (*Acts 22:16, John 3:5, Titus 3:5*). What a blessing to trust in the Lord’s promises and be begotten again unto a living hope (*1 Peter 1:3*)!

*“Echoes of mercy, whispers of love”*

It is written in 1John 1:9 *if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* With these scriptures we, know, and have the understanding that we will see Heaven at the end of time.