

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

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In 1871 these words were written by Edward Hopper and they were published in the *Sailor's Magazine*. Edward Hopper was an ordained minister who pastored at the Church of the Land and the Sea, in New York City, a ministry for the sailors of the world who ended up on the ships that anchored in the harbor of New York. He always referenced *Mark 4:39* when he spoke of this hymn: “*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.*”

We must remember; that the Civil War had only been over for about six years, so there still would have been wooden sailing ships in New York harbor; and I am sure his flock of seamen would have been very close to and comforted by the wording of this hymn,

This hymn asks us to consider the story of Jesus during that 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 Mathew's account He asks, “*You*

of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Faith and prayer during the storms of life will sustain us and we are comforted in the absolute truth that the Lord sees us through all of life's adversities.

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, should always be measured with our Lord's love and understanding. It is imperative that we keep in mind that the 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 horrendous in our lives that all is lost. In *2 Peter 2:9* we are told, “*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.*” Such truth strengthens us to be able to courageously face our life's predicaments.

In the last verse of this hymn; Edward Hopper writes; “*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.*” As this hymn is brought to a close we find the writer finishing with the lesson that even in death we will not be alone. He will pilot us through death to eternal peace. We rejoice in the fact as this world turns, we have the commitment from our Lord that He will never fail nor forsake us, in life or in death (*Hebrews 13:5*).

When we face the storms of our life, being fraught with the towering waves of adversity and with the stinging wind and rain of heartache and sorrow, we need to think of the words of this hymn. We need to think of the words our Lord as given in Mark, and again those of Paul and Peter, and reflect upon them. Consider these words written by Edward Hopper in 1871 as we contemplate our own death: “*May I hear Thee say to me; fear not I will pilot thee...*”