



O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go



"O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

"O Light that foll'west all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

"O Joy that seekest me thru pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

"O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be."

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with lovingkindness." -
Jeremiah 31:3

"To the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious and full of
compassion, and righteous." - Psalm 112:4

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: for His lovingkindness is
everlasting." - Psalm 106:1

"He who promised is faithful." - Hebrews 10:23

In Genesis 21:33, Abraham calls on "the Everlasting God." This was a divine name
signifying the everlasting nature of the covenant that God had made with him; thus we
can be assured that every promise made by God to us will stand for eternity.

There are many synonyms for the words "everlasting" and "eternal," such as: abiding,
ageless, boundless, constant, continued, enduring, forever, immortal, infinite,
imperishable, limitless, perpetual, timeless, undying and unchanging. As we think of
each term as describing God, we are given a greater appreciation for who He is, and a
new perspective for our lives.

John Mac Arthur writes: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and Scripture constantly demands it. To glorify Him is to honor Him, to acknowledge His attributes, and to praise Him for His perfections. Failing to give Him glory is man's greatest affront to his Creator." As we learn more about the everlasting attributes of God, we can praise Him for each one, and all that they mean in our relationship with Him.

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" was written in 1882 by a blind Scottish minister named George Matheson, at a time of much mental suffering in his life. The text of this beautiful hymn came very quickly, as if it were dictated to him. The depth of meaning in each line testifies to the love of God that flooded his heart that night and healed the brokenness within. I doubt that there are more meaningful words expressed for those who are suffering than these precious thoughts from the pen of Rev. Matheson.

The third verse expresses so well the joy that seeks us in our pain and the hope that comes as we lean on the promises of God and remember who He is for us. David wrote of this in Psalm 30:4-5, saying, "Sing praise to the Lord, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning."

I read some interesting thoughts about rainbows in a resource called, "A Down to Earth Bible Study," by Joanna Taylor. I had the joy of working through it with a Christian friend who is also an avid gardener, and we were blessed by the countless applications the author makes from the garden to our lives.

Joanna points out that technically a rainbow is "a circular arc of colors that appears in the sky when raindrops are illuminated by sunlight." But she gives her own definition as, "a natural light show that takes place in the atmosphere after a storm that is produced by God for the purpose of giving us hope."

She also mentions that no two people see the same rainbow because a different set of raindrops contribute to each visual appearance. A rainbow is like an individual message from God to remind us of His promise never to forsake us, just as He promised Noah that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The sudden sight of a rainbow is always a pleasant surprise that stops us in our tracks - a sign of hope for a better tomorrow from the heart of God to our troubled hearts.

So think upon the words of today's hymn, and the Scriptures that remind us of the love of God that holds us up in our very individual trials. And as the last verse says, let us lift our eyes to the Cross of Jesus, where His blood blossomed to eternal life.