



## Day by Day



"Day by day, and with each passing moment,  
strength I find to meet my trials here;  
trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
gives unto each day what He deems best;  
lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,  
mingling toil with peace and rest.

"Every day the Lord Himself is near me  
with a special mercy for each hour;  
all my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,  
He whose name is Counselor and Power.  
The protection of His child and treasure  
is a charge that on Himself He laid;  
'As thy days thy strength shall be in measure,'  
this the pledge to me He made."

"As your days, so shall your strength be." - Deuteronomy 33:25

"He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness'." - 2 Corinthians 12:9

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

"Day by Day" was written by a young Swedish woman named Lina Sandell Berg, who has been called the "Fanny Crosby of Sweden" for her many gospel hymns that helped to influence the waves of revival sweeping through the Scandinavian countries in the late 1800s. That is hard to imagine since we now consider Sweden (the land of my father's ancestors) to be extremely liberal in its world view. But we don't need to look across the ocean to find apostasy and a godless culture. Our own dear country is likewise losing her spiritual footing, as human ideologies replace the truths of God's holy Word.

When Lina was 26 years old, she accompanied her father aboard a ship to Gothenburg, Sweden, across Lake Vattern. The ship gave a sudden lurch and Lina's father, a devout Lutheran minister, fell overboard and drowned before the eyes of his devoted daughter. Although Lina had written many hymn texts prior to this tragic experience,

even more poetic thoughts expressing a tender, childlike trust in her Lord began to flow freely from her broken heart.

In the second line of the first verse we find where Lina's strength came from in that moment of utter weakness: "Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear." She recalls what she already knew about her heavenly Father, "whose heart is kind beyond all measure." He only allowed what was best for His child, whether it brought pain or pleasure, and He promised peace and rest from the turmoil and heartbreak as she willingly put her trust in Him.

This hymn paints a beautiful picture of our heavenly Father who carries us through our most painful experiences so that we may in turn bring comfort to others. He gives "a special mercy for each hour," and takes our cares upon His own strong shoulders. And even on our more "normal" days, we can trust that what He allows is according to His wise plan and purpose, "mingling toil with peace and rest."

There is another song by a group called "Selah" that includes this good advice: "God will take away the pain if we choose to let it go." Just as Job learned to trust that God's ways are always just, we must lean upon what we know about His loving heart and trust Him for what we cannot understand. Job came to this realization while he was still sitting on the ash heap, but it was after he began to see God for who He is that the blessings began to flow back into Job's life.

Lina Sandell Berg knew who God was before her precious father fell overboard to his death. She already had hidden His promises within her heart, and found sweet consolation in the Word when disaster struck unexpectedly. May the third verse of this hymn be our prayer as well, whatever this day may bring -

"Help me then in every tribulation  
so to trust Thy promises, O Lord,  
that I lose not faith's sweet consolation  
offered me within Thy holy word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,  
e'er to take, as from a father's hand,  
one by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
till I reach the promised land."