



Jesus Loves Even Me



"I am so glad that our Father in heav'n
tells of His love in the Book He has giv'n;
wonderful things in the Bible I see -
this is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

Tho I forget Him and wander away,
still He doth love me wherever I stray;
back to His dear loving arms would I flee
when I remember that Jesus loves me.

O if there's only one song I can sing
when in His beauty I see the great King;
this shall my song in eternity be:
'O what a wonder that Jesus loves me!'

"I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me."

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."
- John 15:9

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

Philip P. Bliss was a talented songwriter who ministered with D.L. Moody and Major Daniel Whittle in their evangelistic campaigns. His commanding height and impressive personality made his singing and song leading a highlight of any service. Bliss wrote many outstanding gospel hymns such as "Wonderful Words of Life," "It Is Well with My Soul," and "Hallelujah, What a Savior," but he was led to write today's hymn after attending a worship service where the hymn "Oh How I Love Jesus" was sung repeatedly. His love for Jesus suddenly seemed quite small compared to the great love of Jesus for his poor soul.

"Jesus Loves Even Me" was written just a few years before Philip and his wife died tragically while traveling by train from Pennsylvania to Chicago in 1876. The train overturned in Ohio and plunged into a ravine, killing 100 passengers. Bliss survived the accident but went back into the flames in an attempt to rescue his wife. They both

found themselves stepping into eternity with the Savior they had loved and served so well.

The Apostle John, known as the "beloved disciple," often wrote about the love of God, and what that love looks like for the Christian. One such passage is in 1 John 4:7-9, which says,

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God is manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."

Then John makes sure that we understand the true nature of love, saying, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." And in verse 20, John states simply, "We love Him, because He first loved us." So we realize that the peace and comfort of a Christian are not founded so much upon our love for Christ, but upon Christ's love for us (John 3:16).

Philip Bliss expresses the many ways that Jesus shows His love to us. First and foremost, it is revealed throughout the Bible, God's love letter to His children. Our Father in heaven has given us a Book in which He has told us everything we need to know about Himself, and how we are to live in light of that knowledge. And as we learn more about our loving God, we say with the psalmist, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18).

Then in verse 2 of today's hymn, we see that Jesus calls us back to Himself when we stray. Isaiah 53:6 describes God's redeeming love in this way: "All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." When we confess our sin to Him, our Good Shepherd welcomes us back to the fold, where we once again experience the power of His love and mercy.

The final verse speaks of the song of redemption that begins in our hearts by faith in this life and will continue throughout all eternity. We have sinned against our Holy God, and we are not worthy of salvation, yet Jesus was willing to leave heaven, come to earth and die for our sins, "while we were yet sinners." This truth should cause us to marvel, as we sing along with Philip Bliss, that "Jesus loves even me!"

May we who know the Savior rejoice in His great love that never fails. And let us determine to show His love to others so that they can come to know the God who loves with an everlasting love.