



I Am Thine, O Lord



"I am Thine, O Lord - I have heard Thy voice,
and it told Thy love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith
and be closer drawn to Thee.

"Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
by the pow'r of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope
and my will be lost in Thine.

"O the pure delight of a single hour
that before Thy throne I spend,
when I kneel in pray'r and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend.

"There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea;
there are heights of joy that I may not reach
till I rest in peace with Thee.

"Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where Thou hast died;
draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to Thy precious, bleeding side."

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith." - Hebrews 10:22

"You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever." - Psalm 16:11

I recently treated myself to a new study Bible with larger, bolder print for my 72nd birthday. It is quite a bit heavier as a result, but easier on my aging eyes! I determined to begin reading at the introductory pages, and am now underlining verses in Genesis, where man's relationship with his Creator began.

God created Adam and Eve to have a close relationship with Him and with each other. But that relationship was forever marred by the sin of disobedience to the command of God, which was given for their good. Eve was tempted by the lies of the enemy, Satan, and offered the forbidden fruit to Adam, who disobeyed as well. Although they were created to be near to God, they suddenly realized that something had changed drastically, and their loving Creator seemed very far away.

Isaiah 59:1-2 describes the great problem our sin causes in our relationship with the Almighty: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear, but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

And in 1 John 2:15-16, we read John's stern warning to those who want to obey the Father: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in Him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

Fanny Crosby wrote today's consecration hymn in 1875 while visiting the home of composer, William Doane, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their conversation that night centered around the blessedness of enjoying the nearness of God. Suddenly, the words of "I Am Thine, O Lord" began to flow from Fanny's heart, and Doane supplied the music that suited the text so perfectly.

Jesus came to earth to die for all of our sin, bringing forgiveness and eternal life as a gift of His divine grace. But we have a daily choice to make - Do we serve God or the world? Satan offers happiness, satisfaction and success if we follow in his ways, but, in reality, the path he lays before us only leads to brokenness, death, and eternal separation from God.

It is essential to know and understand God's character, and pray for wisdom to discern good from evil so that we may follow Him in full obedience. Fanny Crosby knew what it meant to enjoy the nearness of God, as she expressed in so many of her timeless hymns. Although she was physically blind, she had 20/20 spiritual vision, and she walked in the light of her Savior as she faithfully served Him throughout her lifetime. May we have a heart like this godly woman whose prayer was to "rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to Thee."