

Saved by Grace—September's Hymn of the Month 2020

By

Bill Dagle

J. Vernon McGee in his books, **Thru the Bible**, states that it is the grace of God that saves us, not just love. The Bible ways, "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 12:8) So many teach that God loves us and He does, that we love each other and we should. Therefore, when we die, we will all go to Heaven—not true. Fanny Crosby held that viewpoint that good people end up in Haven until that life-changing night of November 10, 1850. From that point forward, she would write poems to teach us about God's saving grace. One of these is a poem titled, *Someday*. She also referred to the poem as her "heart's song."

The story begins at a camp meeting in Poughkeepsie, New York, the summer of 1890. The inspiration for the poem came from a gospel tract written by a pastor friend of hers which said, "If each of us is faithful to the grace which is given us by Christ, that same grace which teaches us how to live will also teach us how to die." The pastor who had written the tract was now in Heaven. Moved by the pastor's words, Fanny completed the poem and sent it off to her publisher, Bigelow-Main Company and received a two dollar check for her efforts. It would lie dormant for four years.

In the summer of 1894, Fanny was invited to speak at Moody's Northfield Conference Grounds. She declined to first and then finally gave in. She attended, shared her testimony and closed with her "heart's song." Though she wished to keep the poem for herself, that was not to be. A reporter from England took the poem back with him, and it was published in a paper called, *The Christian*. George Stebbins was given the honor of composing the music, and a new Fanny Crosby hymn was born. It has stood the test of time and remains one of Fanny's most loved songs.

Ira Sankey outlived Moody who died December 22, 1899. Sankey had gone blind by 1908. It was during this time that he would write, "There will be no dark valleys when Jesus comes." Fanny was with him right up to his home going. As he was leaving, it is said he started singing, "Someday the silver cord will break" and then...he finished it "and I shall see Him face to face" in Heaven. What a way to go.

Someday the silver chord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But, oh, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

Someday my earthly house will fall;
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be;
But this I know—my All in All
Has now a place in heaven for me.

Someday, when fades the golden sun
Beneath the rosy tinted west,
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"
And I shall enter into rest.

Someday: till then I'll watch and wait,
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,
That when my Savior opes the gate,
My soul to Him may take its flight.

Refrain:

And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.

For God so loved the world so we can have, but life with Him is not automatic. Sin has to be dealt with--repentance. Faith has to be exercised-- belief. Then and only then, salvation received--grace. "For by grace are ye saved." The choice is yours. Try to work your way into Heaven or receive the gift of Heaven and be **Saved by Grace**.