

## Stand Up For Jesus- May's Hymn of the Month 2023

By  
Bill Dagle

We live in a time and age when taking a stand for something isn't as popular as it used to be. Some, if not many, think it is old fashioned to do so; but yet the truth is that if you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything.

Back in 1858, people were standing up on the Lord's side during the great citywide revival campaign called, "The Work of God in Philadelphia." Services were being held morning and evening in churches, convention halls, and even theaters. The Young Men's Christian Association and the ministers associated with them were holding noonday prayer meetings. Out of this group, no preacher was more powerful than twenty-nine year old Episcopalian, Dudley Tyng. One Sunday during the campaign, he stood before five thousand men in Jayne's Hall. Before he pronounced the benediction, well over one thousand had responded to the invitation.

The following Wednesday, Tyng was at work in his study on his farm. To take a break, he wandered out to the barn to watch the workmen operate a corn-shelling apparatus. When he thoughtlessly moved too close to the machinery, the sleeve of his silk study jacket got caught in the cogs of the machine and his arm was literally torn from his shoulder.

Within hours, doctors and a score of ministers gathered at the dying preacher's bedside. Dudley's father, Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, leaned close to his son and asked, "Dudley, hundreds of your friends and co-workers are waiting for news from you. What should I tell them?" His answer was, "Father, tell them to stand up for Jesus." These were his last words.

The funeral service was on the following Sunday. Dr. George Duffield, a well-known Presbyterian pastor, gave the message. His sermon was from the text, "Stand, therefore having your loins girt about with truth." (Eph. 6:14) For the conclusion of his dramatic sermon, Rev. Duffield read a poem he had written, a poem that today challenges us to take a stand for Christ.

The sermon messages of pastors Tyng and Duffield are all gone and forgotten. The work of God in Philadelphia is a faint memory in history books; and someday, we too will suffer the same fate. Yet there is hope for those who will take a stand for Jesus and respond to the words of a poem that has outlived them all:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross  
Lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory his army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is conquered and Christ is Lord in deed.

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Bill Dagle, hymn historian, has been doing the stories behind the hymns since 1992 by way of radio, newspaper features, and personal appearances in local churches in the Northeast. The stories behind the hymns allow the listener and singer to understand the circumstances behind the writing of the hymns and how God has worked in special ways in the past to give us these wonderful songs today.