

Windows Of Witness (Frances Jane “Fanny” Crosby)

Quotations from *50 People Every Christian Should Know / Fanny Crosby Autobiography*

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20

As we celebrate Mother’s Day during the month of May, it seems fitting to highlight a woman of history whose life has been greatly used of God. Fanny Crosby was born in New York on March 24, 1820. At only six weeks old she contracted inflammation in her eyes, and following the doctor’s careless treatment she was left blind. In her autobiography *Fanny Crosby’s Life Story* she stated, “It seemed intended by the blessed Providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank Him for the dispensation.” “If I could meet him now,” she wrote in reference to the doctor, “I would say thank you, thank you’ — over and over again — for making me blind”.

Although she was physically blind, our Lord blessed Fanny Crosby with remarkably clear vision of the deep truths of God. Saved as a young woman, Crosby did not begin writing gospel songs until 1864, when she met the famous hymn writer, William Bradbury. Over the next 51 years she was used of God to write over 8,000 hymns. Numerous songs which she penned have spoken comfort and truth to God’s people over these many years including; *To God Be The Glory, Blessed Assurance, Praise Him! Praise Him!, Near The Cross, Redeemed How I Love To Proclaim It, Rescue The Perishing, I Am Thine Oh Lord*, and many others.

Fanny Crosby was also gifted with an exceptional memory. While in her childhood she memorized most of the Pentateuch, the Gospels, the entire book of Proverbs, and many sections of other books. Throughout her life, she viewed her blindness as a special gift, believing that God had instead equipped her with “soul-vision”. With that thought always in her heart, a specific occurrence in 1874 prompted her to write another song. On a day when she did not have enough money to pay her rent, she took her need to God in prayer. Just as she had called upon God over the matter, someone appeared at her door pressing a ten dollar bill in her hand and left immediately. It was the exact amount for which she had prayed. That night she sat and penned the words to, “*All The Way My Savior Leads Me*”.

The first stanza says, “All the way my Savior Leads me: What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whatever befall me, Jesus doeth all things well !”

May God grant us all with vision to see as clearly as Fanny Crosby.

~ Pastor Tim Hodge