**FAVORITE HYMNS**

***Trust and Obey***

“Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to Him belong…”

Let me guess, if you were blessed to be taken to Bible class as an infant or toddler that would have been the very first song you ever learned, right? But what was the second song you learned? I don’t know about you, but my generation also cut their teeth on the old gospel classic *Trust and Obey*. While I doubt I learned all the stanzas, I can tell you this for sure, I could belt out the chorus as if I were Luciano Pavarotti (or Josh Groban for you younger readers).

Daniel Towner was a singer and composer of music for the famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody back in the 19th century. Mr. Moody would travel the country preaching in huge evangelistic meetings, calling on sinners to give their hearts and lives to God. One night in Brockton Massachusetts a young man came forward who likely knew very little about the Bible. Yet he was so moved by Mr. Moody’s message that he confessed these words that night when asked the question about his faith: “I’m not quite sure, but I’m going to trust, and I’m going to obey!” Towner heard that confession and was impressed with it. He wrote it down and sent it back to John Sammis, a friend and composer of lyrics and poems. Mr. Sammis quickly saw the potential of those words and wrote out five stanzas and mailed it back to Mr. Towner.

That same year, 1887, Towner set it to music but became discouraged that it didn’t sound right. He crumpled it up and threw it in the trash. Cleaning the room the next day his wife found it in the can and unwrinkled it. She started singing it and loved it. She told her husband, “I feel the melody you have written is just what is needed to carry the message.” A song was born. And kids like me have grown up happily shouting “*Trust and obey, for there’s no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*!”

Beyond small children easily learning to sing the chorus, for 133 years adults have been singing this wonderful hymn as a powerful invitation song, or baptism song, to encourage others who are “not quite sure, but I’m going to trust, and I’m going to obey.” Perhaps even some of you came forward to be baptized at the singing of this song. Let’s see why it is so motivational for an invitation to be saved.

Stanza 1   
When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.  
  
Notice that this verse could easily be taken straight from I John 2:3-6

*“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments … But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”*

Stanza 2  
Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.  
  
When I sing this verse it has I John 3:19-22 written all over it. Doubts and fears are the devil’s greatest weapon to cause us to hesitate obedience to Christ. Faith (“trust”) casts out doubts and fears and motivates us to obey. If you now hesitate, listen to John:

*“And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”*

Stanza 3  
Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, But is blessed if we trust and obey.  
  
There is not one burden or sorrow or grief or loss experienced in this life that Jesus doesn’t see and care about. If my name is now “*written on the palms of God’s hand*” so He will not forget me (Isa. 49:15-16), and if my Lord is now “*ever living to make intercession for us*” (Heb. 7:25), then surely He will bless us if we but trust and obey.

Stanza 4  
But we never can prove the delights of His love Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows, Are for them who will trust and obey.  
  
Think of this, when did God reward Job? Daniel? Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego? David? Peter? Paul? Only after they put “*all on the altar*” in a living sacrifice of self (Rom. 12:1-2). Just as you can’t be “a little pregnant,” so you can’t be “a little committed” to Christ. Lukewarm is putrid to Jesus (Rev. 3:15-16). Be all in! For the fully committed there will be “the delights of His love” and “the joy He bestows” waiting.

Stanza 5  
Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet. Or we’ll walk by His side in the way.  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go; Never fear, only trust and obey.  
  
Sweet, sweet fellowship. Like Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet and the Lord telling her fretful sister Martha, “*One thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part which will not be taken away from her*” (Lk. 10:42), so being Christ’s disciples, sitting at His feet, is the sweetest joy on this side of eternity. Like the apostles hearing the great commission, we also do what He says, we go where He sends, and all without fear, knowing “*the Lord is at hand*” (Phil. 4:5).

Chorus:  
Trust and obey, For there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.  
  
Ah, the finale. The climax. The crescendo. Here is where as a child, and now as an adult, you lift your voice to heaven and sing with all the gusto in your heart “***There’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but trust and obey***!”   
  
It's makes us smile when we hear a child belt that out. But it makes us weep when we see a tender heart say, “I’m not quite sure, but I’m going to trust, and I’m going to obey.” That’s all Jesus’ asks as He shows you His nail-scarred hands, for that is exactly what He did too when He said, “*Thy will be done*.” Just trust and obey. There’s no other way.  
  
Until tomorrow… happiness is trusting and obeying Jesus. Are you happy?  
  
I love you.   
  
Rick