

My Dear Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 86:7, "In the day of trouble I will call upon You; / for You will answer me."

The hymn history today takes place in the great state of Ohio! It's just southwestern Ohio, not southeastern.

Annie Sherwood Hawks was a housewife who was going through particular trials and difficulties. The daily cares of life were the regular stuff, but on top of it she had pain for quite a period of time: pain physically and pain mentally and emotionally. Have you ever been there before? And these things can bring out anger, fear, worry, and depression. Have you experienced that?

As she was experiencing these things, she stopped and thought how a person could live their life without God in their lives. And she realized that she needed to rely on Him just as much every day as what she did at the moment of her salvation. She said that only when we are close to Him in the trials will be there peace. She said that these thoughts took full possession of her as she sat for her morning devotions. So, she went near an open window in June, and took up her pencil and began writing all five verses in order of the hymn that we sing. The words were healing for her as her trial subsided.

Annie's pastor, Robert Lowry, set the words to music, and had it sung at a Sunday School Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio!

But the words were prophetic for her as well. It was many long years afterward when a shadow of a great loss fell over her that she understood the comforting words again. The hymn? "I Need Thee Every Hour."

Listen to some phrases. "No tender voice like Thine can peace afford." Are you looking for peace? It's only found in One Place. "Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh." Are you tempted to anger, worry, fear or depression? There's only one way to be Biblically helped for those things. "I need Thee every hour in joy or pain." Are you experiencing pain in your life, even mental or emotional? There's a solution for you in God. Come to Him. He's knows all your struggles. He's the Only One Who can relieve you.

Praying for you today.