

My Loved Ones:

Psalms 40:3 says "He has put a new song in my mouth, praise to our God. Many shall see it, and take God seriously, and put their trust in the LORD."

When God saved us, many of us had been associated with the world's song. But after God saved us, there's a new song. I remember how dear God's songs were to me as a new Christian, teaching me truths about God and living life. Hopefully for you, God's song is more of a pleasure than a pain! Psalm 40:3 says that others will see the song that the Lord had given us, and will put their trust in the Lord! May we have that kind of obedience in our lives: others see it, and they trust God.

One hymn that combines these themes together is "Trust and Obey." It was written by the first music director of the Moody Bible Institute, D. B. Towner. Towner was in a meeting with D. L. Moody, the great evangelist, and heard a man give a testimony one evening in which the man said, "I am not quite sure - but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey." Towner jotted that down, and sent it to his friend, J. H. Sammis, a Presbyterian minister, who developed it into a hymn.

Trust and obey puts an emphasis on faith and good works: in that order! We aren't saved by good work; we are saved by faith. But a person who is genuinely saved by faith has fruit that others see, the fruit of good works. Don't get the cart before the horse in the matter of faith and good works (Eph 2:8-10). James 2:14 - "What use is it for a man to say that he is a believer and has no fruit of good works to back it up?"

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.

We are faced with dark shadows of clouds, doubts, fears and maybe even tears about our future and the future of those we love. But God promises to take care of them all if we trust Him \*and\* obey Him.

Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He does richly repay;  
Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross But is blest if we trust and obey.

We are faced with burdens, sorrows, griefs, losses, frowns and crosses to bear in our service for the Lord here, don't we. Jesus said, "In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer - I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Expect difficulties in this life, loved ones. But God promises to remember all of those things, and will bless you through all of them, while you are in the difficulties.

"The favor He shows and the joy He bestows are for them who will trust and obey."  
We must have a committed dedication to the Lord. The joy and peace that comes in trials are only for those who trust Him and obey. May we trust and obey more.

We love you and are praying for you today.