

# What God Hath Promised

God hath not promised skies always blue  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

God hath not promised we shall not know  
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care.

God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep,  
Never a river turbid and deep.

But God hath promised strength for the day  
Rest for the labor, light for the way;  
Grace for the trials, help from above;  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

By Annie Johnson Flint

On looking through my confirmation folder, I found this poem. This was a gift on a very special day for me and from a very dear and important person in my church life. The words of this poem resonate with me, and I frequently find myself thinking upon its meaning. Recently I decided to investigate a little about who Annie Johnson Flint was.

Instead of finding that the poem was one verse long, as in my confirmation folder, to my surprise it was four verses long and has also been made into a hymn.

Annie Johnson Flint was born on Christmas Eve, in the year 1866, in the little town of Vineland, New Jersey. When Annie went to school she found she had a great interest in poetry.

Annie and her sister were brought up by foster parents when they were very young. Their foster parents were both Christians and loved the girls with all their hearts. The girls were also brought up in the Christian faith.

On leaving school Annie became a teacher, unfortunately she had to retire early due to ill health. While at home she then began her love and devotion in writing christian poetry.

The first three verses of the poem are telling us that God had not promised us the pain and the peace in this world but as we go through life we will experience these. He understands life at times is not always easy.

As we read this poem it is showing us that life is a mixture of happiness and sorrow, peace and pain. Even though we experience these things, it doesn't mean that God is not going through those with us. He still feels our pain and unhappiness but He is by our side guiding us through our troubles.

In the last verse her poem has said that through life, we will go through these troubles but even if and when we do, he will be there with us. He will help us rest when it is needed. He will help guide us to the correct path, stand by us and share in our grief and sadness. No matter how bad or good the day is, you are given the strength to get through whatever is needed.

The poem shows us that we are not alone through our lives. God helps ease the pain. God helps steer us to recovery. He embraces us and listens to our prayers, even if they are unhappy prayers from ourselves.

By

Karen Fowler