

God Leads Us Along Devotional

Page 4 in **Hymns of Our Redeemer**
George A. Young, c. 1855-1935

Greetings! My name is _____. Today we want to take a close look at the theme of this fine gospel hymn, "*God Leads Us Along*." Published in 1903, the lyrics and the music were written by George A. Young. Our best information is that Mr. Young was a carpenter and a minister of the gospel in rural America. Income was often low, but he and his family sacrificed to save enough for them to build a small home. While holding meetings in a distant community, ruffians who resented Mr. Young's gospel message, set his house on fire and burned it to the ground.* "*God Leads Us Along*" is a testimony to the faithfulness of our Savior who walks with us in the good times and often carries us through the bad! As we sing this timeless anthem to God's guidance, let us be mindful that the challenges to our faith ebb and flow, but our loving heavenly Father will lead us through it all!

1. In shady green pastures,
So rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along,
Where the water's cool flow
Bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.
2. Sometimes on the mount
Where the sun shines so bright,
God leads His dear children along;
Sometimes in the valley,
In darkest of night,
God leads His dear children along.

Chorus

Some thru the waters, some thru the flood,
Some thru the fire, but all thru the blood!
Some thru great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.

* Robert Cottrill, <https://wordwisehymns.com/>

Thoughts on the Scriptures:

(KJV – edited for the modern reader)

And He led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. Psalm 78:53

You probably remember the account in Scripture of the escape of the children of Israel from the Egyptian army. They were trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's powerful forces (Exodus 14). The people cried out in fear as they witnessed the great peril of their circumstance. And God delivered them miraculously from the murderous hand of Pharaoh as they marched across the sea on dry land! And "the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea" (Exodus 14:27). There on the eastern bank of the Red Sea the people rejoiced over the great miracle God had done for them. Now their tune had changed from when their backs were against the water on the western bank of the sea.

If only they could have stayed on the eastern bank of the Red Sea! God had led them powerfully on to safety. Now they had no fears. It was like He was leading them "in shady green pastures, so rich and so sweet!" Their enemy was completely defeated - they were worry free!

But...the eastern bank of the Red Sea was not their "Promised Land." Their great deliverer, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob led them into the troubles and trials and tribulations of the Sinai desert!

Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day. Psalm 25:5

As the Psalmist cries, each of us can cry out to our heavenly Father for Him to lead and teach us. His Word is truth in a world of uncertainty and deception. Victory in our daily walk with Him rests on His guiding presence in our hearts and instruction from His Holy Word, the Bible. Our waiting on Him is humble submission to His timing, His leading and His teaching. It is His child letting the Father be the Father!

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye. Psalm 32:8

Our Father desires loving fellowship and willful cooperation from His child, not sloven, mindless, brittle reactions to jerks on a ring in our nose! We are not to be like a clueless beast with a bridle and bit in its mouth (see Psalm 32:9).

God's guidance is not a substitute for our rational brain. His guidance is His pathway to our understanding and maturing as His offspring!

God does not want robots for children. He wants friends who think like Him. Certainly we have a lot of growing up to do. But we can trust Him to lead and teach us in the right path each day.

He will guide us with His eye. The picture that comes to me in this statement from God is that of a parent and a child at a big family dinner. The child can monitor the parent's pleasure or displeasure in his or her behavior simply by the demeanor in the parent's eye from across the table. This timely, silent, certain guidance from the parent comes out of the close, loving relationship the parent and the child have nurtured over the weeks and months before. In this case, love empowers obedience, not long, brow-beating lectures and brutal punishment.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when you walk through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2

The trials of life are unavoidable. If we choose to follow the Lord Jesus in our daily walk with Him, we must confront the difficulties in our circumstances and relationships with tenacious trust in our God. He is the only trustworthy guide through it all! Through the waters, through the flood, through the fire, through the flame! When the flood of sorrow or disappointment overwhelms us we must keep our eye on Jesus. When the flames of temptation or anger or depression rise up, we must lean that much more on the grace and power of God who is with us in our hearts.

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God Who teaches thee to profit, Who leads thee by the way that you should go. Isaiah 48:17

We have not lived this day before. We do not know what tomorrow holds. But we have the companionship of God in our hearts if we have embraced His invitation to take His free gift of salvation. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Our Redeemer lives! And He is with us to strengthen us, to guide us, to teach us His ways; to lead us on the path to victory and peace and joy in loving fellowship with Him!

As we have mentioned, George A. Young certainly knew the heat of trials and disappointment. But he wrote this ageless hymn bearing witness to the comfort of his Redeemer. Comfort in the darkness of the night season and guidance in the long haul of each trying day! Let us sing again with Mr. Young this testimony to the love and care and leading of our God in all life's ups and downs.

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A Closing Prayer:

Let us Pray. – Dear heavenly Father, thank You that You did not just come 2000 years ago and save us and then leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Thank You, that You have redeemed us by the blood of Jesus on the Cross and sent the Holy Spirit to live with us as we walk this journey of life with Him. Forgive us for our sins. Strengthen us to live in such a way as to bring honor and glory to Your Name. Walk with us through the good times and the hard times. Comfort us, for we are often weak and sometimes confused. Guide us. Teach us Your ways we pray. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.