

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

by George Matheson

This sermon explores the theme of God's unwavering love and devotion, which provides comfort and hope in times of suffering.

Scripture: Romans 8:38

Topics: "Hope in Suffering", "God's Love"

Description

George Matheson reflects on the profound love of God that sustains and uplifts us, even in our darkest moments. He shares the personal pain he experienced while alone during his sister's wedding, which inspired the creation of his hymn 'O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go.' Matheson emphasizes the themes of surrender, hope, and the transformative power of divine love, illustrating how God's light and joy can penetrate our suffering and lead us to a brighter future. The hymn serves as a testament to the unwavering love of God that never lets us go, even when we feel lost or burdened.

Transcript

Matheson said about this hymn:

My hymn was composed in the manse of Innelan [Argyleshire, Scotland] on the evening of the 6th of June, 1882, when I was 40 years of age. I was alone in the manse at that time. It was the night of my sister's marriage, and the rest of the family were staying overnight in Glasgow. Something happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high.

O Love that wilt not let me go,

I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,

That in thine ocean depths its flow

May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,

I yield my flickering torch to thee;

My heart restores its borrowed ray,

That in thy sunshine's blaze its day

May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,

I cannot close my heart to thee;

I trace the rainbow through the rain,

And feel the promise is not vain,

That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,

I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I lay in dust life's glory dead,

And from the ground there blossoms red

Life that shall endless be.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-matheson/o-love-that-wilt-not-let-me-go/>

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