

## Trust and Obey

By Maggie Moller

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

“Trust and obey” sounds like an easy request from God, but it takes a lifetime to learn well. Trusting and obeying are contrary to our sinful human nature. To see a common example of this, we need to look no further than children interacting with their parents. Often, children don’t see the need or the reason behind their parents’ requests and demands, but the parents have their children’s best interests in mind, even when it means giving up pleasures of the moment. For example, a child may not see any long-term consequences to eating only cake and ice cream for dinner. Their parents, however, look beyond the moment and see the negative outcomes that decision would cause. The child may not understand the reason they have to eat broccoli instead of cake now, but down the road they will come to understand and value their parents’ decisions. The same is true of our relationship with God as our Father. Often, we don’t understand why things are happening to us the way they are, but God sees beyond the present circumstances. He sees how the present circumstances will cause us to grow, even though they are difficult now. To fully reap the benefits of the circumstances God places us in now, we need to trust that He knows best and obey His leading.

God has been working in my life teaching me to trust and obey Him over the transition to living on my own since I moved to college at the end of August. It has been hard at times to understand why things work out the way they do, but I am not sorry I had to go through the little trials that have come my way. Through the “bumps in the road,” I have grown much closer to God, and I feel myself trusting Him more fully with my future. I do not mean that it is still not hard, but I know that God is trying to teach me lessons that will benefit me the rest of my life.

Let us remember, as the hymn instructs us in its chorus, to “trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Lyricist: John Henry Sammis

John Henry Sammis was born on July 6, 1846, in Brooklyn, New York. By the time he was just 23, he was a successful businessman in Logansport, Indiana. Despite his success in the business world, John felt a call to enter the ministry. He began to attend McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and later Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati. In 1880, he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. He served at various churches until moving to Los Angeles in 1901. There, he taught at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles where he remained for the rest of his career. He passed away in Los Angeles on June 12, 1919, at the age of 73. Throughout his career, he wrote lyrics for over 100 hymns, including the lyrics for “Trust and Obey.”

Composer: Daniel Brink Towner

Daniel Brink Towner was born on April 5, 1850, in Pennsylvania. He began studying music under his father's instruction at an early age. Throughout his life, he served as a musical director for a variety of churches. According to Mr. Towner, this is how the hymn "Trust and Obey" came into existence:

[In 1886,] Mr. [Dwight] Moody was conducting a series of meetings in Brockton, Massachusetts, and I had the pleasure of singing for him there. One night a young man rose in a testimony and said, "I am not quite sure...but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey." I just jotted that sentence down, and sent it with the little story to the Rev. J. H. Sammis, a Presbyterian minister. He wrote the hymn, and the tune was born.

Mr. Towner passed away on October 3, 1919, at the age of 69 in Longwood, Missouri, while leading music at an evangelistic meeting.

Works Consulted:

[www.cyberhymnal.org](http://www.cyberhymnal.org)

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)