

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

By Maggie Moller

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

“In Him [Jesus Christ] and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (Ephesians 3:12)

When Nathan announced that the newsletter topic for the month of October was going to be “faith,” I knew right away that I wanted to write about “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place,” because it seemed to be the perfect hymn for the topic of faith. The title alone possesses the powerful message that by faith in Christ we have assurance of an eternal resting place no matter what trials we may face in this life. This is great news that should excite us! The things the world places its faith in (money, people, etc.) give them no place of rest and actually lead to more and more unrest, but Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” was penned by Eliza Edmunds Hewitt, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 1851. After graduating high school, she began teaching, but her teaching career was sadly cut short when she was diagnosed with a serious spinal problem. She partially recovered but remained an invalid most of her life. Her disability prevented her from teaching, so she turned to hymn writing. The exact time in her life that she penned the words for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” is not known. Although she was in poor health, she served as a Sunday school superintendent for many years. Eliza lived in Philadelphia her entire life and passed away on April 24, 1920. Although she suffered much in her life and found little rest in her day-to-day trials, Eliza understood that in Christ her faith did have a secure, eternal resting place.

The music that became the tune for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” was originally written by a man named André Ernest Modeste Grétry. André was a composer who was born in Belgium, but at some point in his life, he moved to France. He is remembered primarily for his opera compositions, and the music for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” is based on one of his compositions. The hymnist William Kirkpatrick, who wrote music for over a hundred hymns, including “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” and “Redeemed,” adapted André’s music into the tune we now associate with Eliza’s lyrics.