

if thou but suffer god to guide thee lyrics

if thou but suffer god to guide thee lyrics are a cherished hymn text that has inspired countless believers with its message of trust and divine guidance. This article explores the full lyrics of this timeless hymn, delves into its historical background, and examines its theological significance. Whether you are seeking the complete hymn text, interested in the hymn's origin, or looking to understand the spiritual themes conveyed through its words, this comprehensive discussion covers all aspects. Additionally, the article highlights the hymn's enduring popularity in worship settings and its role in Christian devotional life. By analyzing the lyrics and their meaning, readers can gain a deeper appreciation for the hymn's spiritual encouragement and poetic beauty. The following sections provide detailed insights into the hymn's lyrics, author, and theological context.

- Complete Lyrics of "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"
- Historical Background and Authorship
- Theological Themes and Interpretations
- Musical Adaptations and Worship Usage

Complete Lyrics of "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

The hymn "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" presents a rich and comforting message through its carefully crafted lyrics. The text encourages believers to place their trust in divine guidance, assuring them that God's wisdom will lead them through life's challenges. Below are the full lyrics commonly associated with this hymn:

1. If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
2. Only be still, and wait His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content,

Our cares and sins He weighs with pleasure,
And all are registered by Lent;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from His ways,
But do thine own part faithfully;
Trust His rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

4. Act, act in the living present,
Heart, mind, and soul, and strength, subdue
All that hinders love's full blessing;
And God shall be thy strength and shield,
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

5. Trust, then, in God the Father,
Though dark thy path and sad thy lot;
His wisdom must not fail thee,
His promise hath no second thought;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Historical Background and Authorship

The hymn "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" was written by Georg Neumark, a German hymn writer and composer of the 17th century. Neumark lived during a tumultuous period marked by religious conflict and social upheaval, which deeply influenced his spiritual writings. This hymn reflects the Pietist emphasis on personal trust in God and surrender to divine providence. Neumark's work has been treasured in Protestant hymnody for its poetic expression of faith and assurance.

Georg Neumark's Life and Contributions

Born in 1621, Georg Neumark was a prominent figure in early German Protestant hymnody. He combined his talents as a poet and musician to compose hymns that were both doctrinally sound and emotionally resonant. His hymns often addressed themes of trust, perseverance, and the believer's relationship with God. "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" stands out as one of his most enduring contributions to Christian worship music.

Context of the Hymn's Composition

The hymn was composed during a period when the Thirty Years' War had devastated much of Central Europe. Amidst this uncertainty, Neumark's hymn offered comfort and encouragement to Christians seeking stability through faith. The text's emphasis on divine guidance and unchanging love resonated deeply with congregations facing hardship and loss.

Theological Themes and Interpretations

The lyrics of "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" weave together several key theological themes central to Christian spirituality. These themes underscore the nature of God's providence, the believer's response, and the assurance of divine faithfulness. Understanding these theological elements enriches the appreciation of the hymn's message.

Divine Guidance and Trust

The hymn's primary theme is the call for believers to "suffer" or willingly allow God to guide their lives. This surrender reflects a profound trust in God's wisdom and timing. The repeated assurance that "Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move" highlights the stability and security found in placing confidence in God's guidance.

Faith Amid Trials

The lyrics acknowledge that life includes "evil days" and "dark paths," yet encourage steadfast hope and cheerful patience. This reflects biblical teachings on enduring trials by relying on God's promises. The hymn thus serves as a spiritual resource for believers seeking encouragement during difficulties.

Active Participation in Faith

While emphasizing trust, the hymn also calls for active faith: "Sing, pray, and swerve not from His ways," and "Act, act in the living present." This balanced approach highlights that faith involves both reliance on God and personal responsibility to live faithfully and obediently.

Musical Adaptations and Worship Usage

"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" has been set to various melodies over the centuries, enhancing its accessibility and use in worship. The hymn's lyrical depth and comforting message have made it a staple in many Protestant

hymnals and devotionals. Its musical arrangements range from simple congregational tunes to more elaborate choral settings.

Common Tune Settings

The hymn is often sung to traditional German chorale melodies or other hymn tunes that complement its meter and mood. These musical settings facilitate congregational singing and help embed the hymn's message in the hearts of worshippers.

Role in Worship and Devotional Life

The hymn is frequently included in worship services focused on themes of trust, guidance, and perseverance. It is also used in personal devotions as a source of comfort and encouragement. The lyrical emphasis on God's unchanging love makes it especially relevant during seasons of uncertainty or hardship.

Benefits of Incorporating the Hymn in Worship

- Encourages deep trust in divine guidance among congregants
- Provides poetic and theological richness for reflection
- Supports spiritual resilience through affirmation of God's faithfulness
- Enhances communal worship with memorable and meaningful lyrics
- Connects modern believers to historical Christian traditions

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the song 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee' about?

The song 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee' is a Christian hymn that emphasizes trusting in God's guidance and providence throughout life's challenges.

Who wrote the lyrics to 'If Thou But Suffer God to

Guide Thee'?

The lyrics were written by Georg Neumark, a 17th-century German hymn writer and composer.

What is the main message conveyed in 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee' lyrics?

The main message is to encourage believers to surrender to God's will and trust Him to lead them through difficulties and uncertainties.

Are there any well-known musical arrangements of 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee'?

Yes, the hymn has been arranged by various composers over time, including Johann Sebastian Bach, who incorporated it in his works.

Where can I find the full lyrics to 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee'?

The full lyrics can be found on hymn websites, Christian music archives, and some church hymnals available online.

Is 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee' still sung in churches today?

Yes, this hymn remains a favorite in many Christian denominations and is often sung in worship services focusing on faith and trust in God.

What is the historical context of the hymn 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee'?

Written in the 17th century during a time of religious turmoil in Europe, the hymn reflects a message of hope and reliance on divine guidance amid hardship.

Can the lyrics of 'If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee' be applied to modern life?

Absolutely; the hymn's themes of trust, patience, and divine guidance are timeless and resonate with people facing challenges in contemporary life.

Additional Resources

1. *Trusting God Through Trials: Embracing Divine Guidance*

This book explores the theme of surrendering to God's will during difficult times, much like the message in "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee." It offers practical advice and biblical insights on how to find peace and strength by trusting God's plan. Readers are encouraged to let go of control and embrace faith even in suffering.

2. Grace in the Midst of Suffering: Living the Lyrics of Faith

Focusing on the spiritual journey of enduring hardship, this book reflects on the comforting power of God's guidance. It delves into stories and teachings that mirror the sentiments expressed in the hymn, providing encouragement to those struggling to maintain hope. The author emphasizes grace as a sustaining force.

3. The Path of Divine Guidance: Lessons from Sacred Hymns

This work examines various hymns, including "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee," and their theological implications. It discusses how sacred music can lead believers deeper into understanding God's purpose for suffering. The book blends historical context with spiritual application.

4. Faith and Suffering: A Christian's Journey Through Trials

A comprehensive study of the relationship between faith and suffering, this book highlights how trusting in God's guidance transforms pain into growth. The author draws from scripture and personal testimonies to illustrate how believers can navigate life's hardships with hope. It serves as a guide for maintaining faith amid adversity.

5. Letting God Lead: Surrender and Spiritual Growth

Centered on the principle of surrender found in the hymn's lyrics, this book encourages readers to release their anxieties and follow God's lead. It provides practical steps for cultivating a trusting heart and embracing divine direction. Through reflection and prayer, the reader learns to find joy in God's sovereign plan.

6. Comfort in the Storm: Finding Peace Through God's Guidance

This book offers encouragement to those facing emotional and spiritual storms, drawing parallels with the hymn's message of trust. It explores how God's guidance can bring calm and assurance when life feels overwhelming. Inspirational stories and scripture passages support the theme of divine comfort.

7. Guided by Grace: Spiritual Wisdom from Classic Hymns

Examining the rich spiritual wisdom contained in classic hymns like "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee," this book uncovers timeless truths about faith and perseverance. It encourages readers to apply these lessons to their daily lives for deeper spiritual resilience. The work blends hymnology with practical devotion.

8. The Sovereignty of God in Suffering: A Theological Reflection

This theological treatise discusses the sovereignty of God over human suffering, using the hymn as a starting point. It addresses difficult questions about pain and divine purpose, offering doctrinal clarity and hope.

The book is suited for readers seeking a deeper intellectual and spiritual understanding.

9. *Walking by Faith: Trusting God's Guidance in Uncertain Times*

Focusing on the challenges of uncertainty, this book encourages believers to rely on God's guidance as expressed in the hymn. It provides encouragement for maintaining faith when the future is unclear and suffering is present. Practical devotionals and scriptural reflections help readers walk confidently by faith.

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