

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Just think how many fathers and grandfathers ago our Christian faith began! And many of these earliest Christians were willing to be put in dungeons, burned, or killed by the sword to keep their faith alive!

Tell one of these stories of Christian courage:

- John the Baptist — Matthew 3:1-6; 14:4-12
- The stoning of Stephen — Acts 7:55-60
- James and Peter — Acts 12:1-5
- The suffering of Paul — Cor. 11:23-33

Christian courage in our lives may not require physical suffering but it demands that we practice living in the spirit of love toward both friend and foe, which Christ taught in his Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 5, 6 and 7 and tell how the teachings could “win all nations unto God” and bring peace and freedom to all mankind:

What other hymns can you find that were written by Frederick W. Faber?

When Faber lived in mid-19th century England he and a group of fellow students participated in an activity that came to be known as the Oxford Movement. This movement was involved in controversy concerning the type of hymns appropriate for use in the English Worship Services. Some persons favored the evangelical type of hymn that emphasized the intimate, personal expression of an individual toward God — while other persons felt that only hymns based on the church and corporate worship of God were right to use. Today, singing Christians know that there is a place for both types of hymns! See if you can find three hymns for private devotion and three hymns for group worship.

Private, Personal Expression

Corporate, Shared Experience

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The tune “St. Catherine,” appeared in Henry Hemy’s book, *Crown of Jesus*, in 1864; and George Walton was the arranger. Each time we sing the melody, we should remember the “faith of our fathers” and renew the promise to use our lives courageously to keep faith alive for our own children.