

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

DAILY PRAYERS

STORY

Every evening, Eunice Crosby would kneel at her rocking chair with her little granddaughter Frances Jean and pray. Frances had one prayer: “Dear Lord, please show me how I can learn like other children.”

Frances, or Fanny, was blind and couldn’t attend the school in her city. She had memorized much of the Bible, but she was desperate to learn more. One evening after they prayed, Frances, then eleven, felt her burden lift and knew her prayer would be answered.

Four years later, her family got a letter about a school for the blind in New York City. “It was the happiest day of my life,” wrote Frances years later. “O thank God, He has answered my prayer just as I knew He would.”

At school, Frances learned to play guitar, piano, and organ, read, and also become a teacher. She wrote poems, which became gospel hymns still popular today. The hymns show her simple and earnest faith in her loving Savior, a faith nurtured at her grandmother’s side. “Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast. There by His love o’ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest.”

“Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain free to all, a healing stream flows from Calvary’s mountain.”

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Describe why Fanny Crosby is a fine example of persistence in prayer. *Fanny prayed the same prayer for four years. God answered her prayer in a wonderful way, giving her excellent gifts so that she might praise Him in poetry.*
2. Close your eyes for two minutes. Can you imagine a lifetime without sight? Fanny was blind physically, but she was not blind spiritually. Explain. *Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Fanny had been given an acute spiritual sight. She clearly saw God’s grace and love through Jesus.*
3. Fanny Crosby once said: “Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind? Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!” What can you deduce about Fanny’s faith from these words? *Fanny Crosby knew Jesus as her Savior and loved Him. She looked forward with the eyes of faith to seeing the face of Jesus, her Savior, as the first face she would ever behold.*