

18 Experiences in M. E. Barber's Hymns

Course Description:

Margaret Emma Barber's legacy of 52 hymns and poems give us a window into her inner journey with the Lord. They tell her spiritual biography. Through them we find evidence of a deep knowledge of Christ and a history of fellowship, speakings from the Lord, and obediences.

In studying her inner life, we will seek to enrich our own. Through her hymns we will study 18 of her experiences, prayerfully looking to the Lord to do a similar work in our own hearts. This is primarily an inner-life class. Cultivating a richer experience of Christ will be our course objective.

When we consider Miss Barber's poems chronologically, we can trace a spiritual pathway in 5 stages. Her early poems show her 1) Choosing The Narrow Path "Woo me O Lord from easy paths". Then this narrow path leads her to many experiences of 2) Obedience where she finds herself "wrecked" in the eyes of her peers and her own. In these dark days, receives many 3) Exhortations of Tough-Love from the Lord, such as "Hush Thee, Jesus Went Before". In this way she found her "spirit-ministry"—4) Life out of Death. Finally she saw time and time again that 5) "There Is Always Something Over" in the Lord's ways and miraculous supply. What a rich testimony of praise extends from these poems!

Instructor: James Reinarz

Time: Thursdays 8:30–9:30 PM ET

Class Size: Limit of 30

Syllabus (by topic):

1. Choosing The Narrow Path
 - a. Week 1: Choosing the Narrow Path
 - b. Week 2: Experiencing the Cross
2. Obedience
 - a. Week 3: Obedience and Denying Oneself.
3. Exhortations of Tough-Love
 - a. Week 4: Tough-Love and Experiencing Christ
 - b. Week 5: Finding Strength In His Name
 - c. Week 6: "Deal with the Lord alone" – The life of Faith
4. Life out of Death
 - a. Week 7: Spirit-Ministry of Life to Others
 - b. Week 8: Waiting for the Lord's Return
5. "There Is Always Something Over"
 - a. Week 9: Miracles of the Lord's Supply

Class Structure:

Each class will include a presentation of two experiences from Miss Barber's hymns. Class participation and fellowship will also be a key component.

Homework:

Studying Hymns to enrich one's inner life with the Lord requires that we have an active inner seeking ourselves. Participants will be required to keep a prayer-journal during the class and prayerfully study several hymns each week. There will be opportunities to share observations and experiences from the weekly homework in each class.

Journaling assignments will be turned in via Google Classroom and will receive comments each week from the instructor.

Resources:

1. Songs and Hymns of Life Hymnal
2. Internet access to heritage.asweetsavor.org