



Reverend Greg's Journal

Recently, during one of our Sunday morning Church services the congregation and choir joined together in singing the great hymn "How Firm A Foundation". While doing the research on this hymn, once again it became clear to me that one of the highest forms of worship and praise are when we put words, God's words/scripture, to musical melodies.

John Rippon was a pastor at Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London, England for 63 years, beginning in 1775. During this pastor's many years of service at this church he developed a vision for a church hymnal, which he edited and was published in 1787. An American edition appeared in 1820, "A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors". In this edition was "How Firm A Foundation". The hymn originally had seven verses but has since been condensed to four. All four verses are based on various biblical promises.

- Isaiah 41:10- ***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."***
- Isaiah 43:2- ***"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."***
- 2nd Corinthians 12:9- ***"My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."***
- Hebrews 13:5- **For He Himself has said- *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

Is it any wonder this hymn was first published under the title, ***"Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises."***

Our hope and prayer is that these Bible promises and the melody that goes with this song will be a source of comfort and encouragement to you today and everyday!