

### Spiritual Acuity 3

After losing his sight, twenty-year-old George Matheson resolved to continue studying toward his goal of becoming a Christian minister. Persevering, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity and had a long career as pastor in Scotland. Queen Victoria invited him to preach at her Scottish estate of Balmoral and afterwards had Matheson's sermon on Job published.

Matheson's famous hymn, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go," gives insight into his deep feelings over both losing his eyesight and the companionship of human marriage:

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

-- verse 3; music and all verses at <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/o/l/oltwnlmg.htm>

If I will allow it, Matheson tells me, God's grace will work in suffering to set me free -- not *\_from\_* suffering, but *\_through\_* suffering.



*Coffee/tea thought:* Can I see in my own history where God has worked through deep loss to bring healing and joy?

John

Ref: *George Matheson (1842-1906)*, quoted in *AN ANTHOLOGY OF DEVOTIONAL LITERATURE* by Thomas S. Kepler.

### 属灵的敏锐3

双目失明之后，二十岁的乔治·马得胜继续学业要成为一名传道人。在不懈努力下，他获得了神学博士学位，在苏格兰作了很长一段时间的教师。维多利亚女王邀请他在苏格兰的巴尔莫勒尔堡讲道，并且出版了马得胜关于约伯记的讲道集。

马得胜的著名诗歌，“哦，那不肯放我之爱”，叫人可以了解到他经历失去视力和伴侣的双重痛苦后的感受：

哦，那苦中寻我之乐，  
我心不能向你关闭；  
我在雨中彩虹寻得，  
知你应许不会空说，  
天亮便无泪涕。

—— 第三段；全诗：<http://www.hymnal.net/hymn.php/ch/332/gb=1#ixzz1ktUY4H1Z>

如果我愿意，马得胜告诉我，神用痛苦使我得自由——不是没有痛苦，而是借着痛苦。

随想：我能发现自己生活中神借着损失带来的医治和喜乐吗？

史建恩