

HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

Annie Johnson Flint was born on Christmas Eve 1866 in Vineland, New Jersey to Eldon and Jean Johnson. Thus began her life of trouble and sorrow. The mother died in 1869 after giving birth to Annie's baby sister. Unfortunately, the grieving father left the two tiny girls in a home where they were both unwelcome and unwanted. Fortunately, a little over two years later they were adopted by neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Flint. The father consented to the adoption for two reasons. First, he was suffering from an incurable disease and was to die shortly. Second, the Flints were a godly family, and he wanted the girls to be raised as Christians. In their new home these little girls were loved and cared for in a wonderful way. They were raised to love Jesus Christ, and Annie gave her heart to the lord when she was only eight years old.

After graduating from high school Annie spent a year at normal school and received a lucrative job offer. She declined that offer, however, and returned home to take care of her foster mother who was in failing health. Annie signed a contract to teach at a local school for three years, but during the second year arthritis began to show itself and even though she sought help from a series of doctors she was barely able to complete the third year of her contract. After that she was obliged to give up her work and then followed three more years of increasing helplessness.

It was at this point that both of her adopted parents died within a few months of each other and the twice orphaned girls were alone again. There was little money in the bank and they were facing another "Red Sea experience". A long time friend, whom they called "Aunt Susie", suggested that Annie go to a Sanitarium at Clifton Springs, NJ where she might get well. Her sister was also ill and in failing health. The crushing verdict of the doctors at the Sanitarium was that Annie would henceforth be a helpless invalid.

The doctors were correct and for more than forty years there was scarcely a day when she did not suffer pain. The passing of the years only made her increasingly helpless. Her joints had become rigid, and she could scarcely even turn her head. So it was that Annie Johnson Flint stuck a pen through bent fingers and swollen joints and wrote these memorable words:

He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater;
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy;
To multiplied trials, He multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance.
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done.
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources.
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure;
His power has no boundary known unto men.
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus.
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

Annie died on Sept. 8, 1932. Her last words were: "I have nothing to say. It's all right."
(Adapted from an article by Rowland V. Bingham)