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~ ECHOES FROM THE UNDER SHEPHERD ~  
DISCIPLESHIP EMPHASIS MONTH

BECAUSE HE LIVES

Gloria Gaither, 1942 — William Gaither, 1936 —

*“Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19) (NIV)*

Christ’s resurrection is our guarantee of at least two basic truths: First, He has the power to give His life to us and to bring us ultimately to glory to reign with Him forever. And second, His resurrection makes it possible for Him to live in our hearts and to be an integral part of our daily living.

For the past two decades the music of Gloria and Bill Gaither has greatly enriched evangelical hymnody. But the song that has especially highlighted the Gaither’s ministry is one that reflects their philosophy — the resurrection principle in the daily routines of life — “Because He Lives.” Bill Gaither recalls the circumstances that prompted the writing of this favorite:

We wrote “Because He Lives” after a period of time when we had had a kind of dry spell and hadn’t written any songs for a while ... Also at the end of the 1960’s, our country was going through some great turmoil with the height of the drug culture, and the whole “God is Dead” theory was running wild in our country. Also it was the peak of the Vietnam War. During that time our little son was born — at least Gloria was expecting him. I can remember at the time we thought, “Brother, this is really a poor time to bring a child into the world.” At times we were even quite discouraged by the whole thing. And then Benjy did come. We had two little girls whom we love very much, but this was our first son, and so that lyric came to us, “How sweet to hold our new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives, but better still the calm assurance that this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.” **And it gave us the courage to say, “Because Christ lives we can face tomorrow” and keep our heads high.**

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- God sent His son — they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon; an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
- How sweet to hold a new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.
- And then one day I’ll cross the river; I’ll fight life’s final war with pain; and then, as death gives way to victory, I’ll see the lights of glory — and I’ll know He lives.

**Chorus:** Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future and life is worth the living — just because He lives. **AMEN.**

**For Today:** John 6:40; Colossians 3:3, 4; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 John 5:11

Live in the joyous confidence that the living, victorious Christ is guiding your life. Carry this musical truth with you as you go. **AMEN.**

— William J. Gaither

— Amazing Grace

366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions

— Kenneth W. Osbeck

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*  
*Matthew 28:18 – 20*

