

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey · 1866 · Tune: Hankey (William G. Fischer)
Meter: 7.6.7.6.D with refrain

Verse 1

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

Verse 2

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Verse 3

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Verse 4

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

History

Katherine 'Kate' Hankey, an English Sunday-school teacher and missionary's daughter, wrote a long 100-stanza poem on the life of Christ in 1866 while recovering from a serious illness. The portion that became 'I Love to Tell the Story' came from the second part. American composer William Fischer set selected verses to music in 1869 for a YMCA convention.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.