



## Blest be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts, and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage by the way;  
while each in expectation lives  
and waits to see the day.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin, we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.



# Blest be the Tie that Binds

The Reverend John Fawcett served as the minister of the Baptist church in Wainsgate in West Yorkshire, England. Orphaned at the age of 12, he taught himself to read and write by candlelight after working long hours in a factory each day. Ordained at the age of 25, he took the pulpit in the little church of Wainsgate for a tiny salary, partially paid in potatoes and wool given by the local farmers. Considered one of the great theological scholars of his day, an essay "On Anger" written by him in 1771 so impressed King George III that he was called to pastor the very large and prestigious Carter Lane Church in London. As his possessions were being loaded aboard a wagon, his congregation came as a body to bid him farewell. Saying these farewells to those he had baptized, married, ministered to and loved was too much for Reverend Fawcett and he ordered his possessions to be returned to his house saying that he 'needed nothing a king could supply' so long as he could live among people he loved. He wrote this hymn in 1782 to commemorate this event.

## A few technical notes and explanations for the modern worshipper

This is a hymn praising the love that can be found within the community of the church, but what exactly is the tie that binds? The Holy Spirit binds us in love and fellowship, "like that above."

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* Philip-  
pians 2:1-2