I Look Not Back

Words: Annie Johnson Flint, ca. 1926
Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 19th century

1. I look not back; God knows the fruitless efforts,
   The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets.
2. I look not forward; God sees all the future,
   The road that, short or long, will lead me home,
3. I look not round me; then would fears assail me,
   So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas,
4. I look not inward; that would make me wretched,
   For I have naught on which to stay my trust.
5. But I look up—in to the face of Jesus,
   For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;

   I leave them all with Him who blots the record,
   And He will face with me its every trial,
   So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,
   Nothing I see save failure and shortcomings,
   And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,

   And gracious ly forgives and then forgets.
   And bear for me the burdens that may come.
   So vain the hope of comfort and of ease.
   And weak endeavors, crumbling into dust.
   And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.