

# Short Biography

by George Matheson

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*George Matheson's life was marked by his academic gifts and his ability to serve as a pastor despite his near-total blindness.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 40:31, John 9:25, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 4:13

**Topics:** "Faith in Adversity", "Resilience"

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## Description

George Matheson shares his life story, detailing his birth in Glasgow, Scotland, and his struggle with deteriorating eyesight that led to near-total blindness. Despite this challenge, he excelled academically with the help of his sisters and graduated from the University of Edinburgh, eventually becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland. He served in Innealan for 18 years, where his remarkable memory allowed him to preach without his congregation realizing he was blind. Later, he became the pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Edinburgh, dedicating his final years to literary pursuits, including the publication of 'Sacred Songs'. Matheson's life exemplifies resilience and dedication to faith despite personal challenges.

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## Transcript

**Born:** March 27, 1842, Glasgow, Scotland.

**Died:** August 28, 1906, Avenell House, North Berwick, Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Buried:** Family vault, Glasgow Necropolis.

Born with poor vision, Matheson's eyesight gradually worsened until he was almost totally blind. However, he was academically gifted, and his sisters learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew to help him study. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh (MA 1862), then became a minister in the Church of Scotland. He pastored in the resort town of Innealan for 18 years; due to his ability to memorize sermons and entire sections of the Bible, listeners were often unaware he was blind. In 1886, Matheson became pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Edinburgh, where he served 13 years. He spent the remaining years of his life in literary efforts. His works include:

Sacred Songs (Edinburgh, Scotland: W. Blackwood, 1890)

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