

# LIFE IS LIKE A MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

Gospel Song by M.E. Abbey and C.D. Tillman; Based on a 1886 poem by Will S. Hays "The Faithful Engineer." **DATE:** 1890; **CATEGORY:** Early Gospel Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Greenbriar Boys; Bradley Kincaid; Bill Monroe; **OTHER NAMES:** Life's Railway to Heaven; **NOTES:** "Life's Railway to Heaven" is related to "The Girl I Left in Sunny Tennessee;" "Old True Love/Lover;" It is the melody for "Miner's Lifeguard;" "Weaver's Life;" "Ballad of the Braswell Boys;" "Wreck of the Happy Valley;"

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is accompanied by guitar chords indicated above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Life is like a moun - tain rail - way with an en - gi - neer that's brave  
 We must make the run suc - cess - ful from the crad - le to the grave  
 watch the hills the curves and tun - nels Nev - er fal - ter nev - er fail  
 keep your hands up - on the throt - tle and your eyes up - on the rail  
 Oh bless - ed Sav - iour thou wilt guide us til we reach that bliss - ful shore  
 Where the an - gels come to join us in God's grace for e - ver more.

G C G  
 Life is like a mountain railway with an engineer that's brave  
 A7 D  
 We must make the run successful from the cradle to the grave  
 G C G  
 Watch the hills, the curves, and tunnels never falter, never fail  
 D G  
 Keep your hands upon the throttle and your eyes upon the rail  
 C G D  
 Oh blessed saviour thou wilt guide us, til we reach that blissful shore  
 G C G D G  
 Where the angels come to join us, in God's grace forever more.

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As you roll across the trestle spanning Jordan's swelling tide  
 You behold the Union depot into which your train will glide  
 There you'll meet the superintendent God the Father, God the Son  
 With a hearty, joyous plaudit weary pilgrim welcome home.