

## It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford was from Chicago and he became a successful businessman but, as fate would have it, disaster struck and he lost his fortune overnight. Shortly before the disaster, Spafford's son died. Mr. Spafford was a Christian who had a close relationship with the renowned evangelist, D. L. Moody. Through a series of events Spafford felt that he and his family needed a vacation so plans were made for a trip to Europe. Spafford himself was to assist Mr. Moody and Ira D. Sankey, the musician for the Moody evangelistic meetings, while the latter were in Great Britain. Spafford sent his wife four daughters on ahead and he was to join them later. While at sea on November 22, 1873. the ship that Mrs. Spafford was on {the S.S. Ville du Havre} was struck by an English vessel, the Lochearn, and it sank within twelve minutes with the loss of 226 lives; the Spafford's four daughters were among the victims. We are told that, upon arriving in England, Mrs. Spafford sent a telegram to her husband which simply read, "Saved alone."

Mr. Spafford immediately set sail for England and, as his ship passed over the location where his daughters drowned, the song, "It Is Well With My Soul" was written. How is it possible that, under such circumstances and with so much grief, this song could be written? The only possible explanation is found in the Bible, the Word of God with one verse such as "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus." {Philippians 4:7} You see my friend, when a person repents of sin and by faith alone in the blood of Jesus Christ trusts Him as his personal Saviour, He not only forgives him but, He also saves him for all eternity, {John 3:16; Romans 10:13; 1 John 5:11-13} just to name a few verses. A Christian, one who is truly forgiven and saved by God, has Christ in his heart, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" {Colossians 1:27} as well as God the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" {1 Corinthians 6:19} The Holy Spirit is also called the "Comforter", "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." {John 14:26} Jesus promised peace to those who believe in Him, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." {John 14:27} Because of all that the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him by not only forgiving his sin, but for eternal salvation, in spite of his personal grief and anguish, Spafford was able to write the words to this song:

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

(Refrain:) It is well (it is well),  
with my soul (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
(Refrain)

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
(Refrain)

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pain shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.  
(Refrain)

Horatio G. Spafford was an ordinary man who had an extraordinary Saviour capable of giving grace and comfort even in the most grievous times of one's life. Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, has done for Mr. Spafford and multitudes like him, He can do for you today, right now! Jesus loves you so much that He died for you to pay your sin debt. "But God demonstrates his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} He not only died for you, but He also bodily rose again {"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" 1 Corinthians 15:4}and at this very moment He is in Heaven on the right hand of God the Father. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:12}

My friend, I'm just a preacher and I cannot make you get saved but, I can pray for you and, as I have written this Gospel tract, it has been my prayer that you will repent of sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, that you will receive Him as your personal Saviour. You can pray in your own words and ask Him to forgive and save you. Will you PLEASE do this today, before it becomes eternally too late? I pray that you will!

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017

All Scripture references are KJV