

"It Is Well With My Soul"

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Horatio Spafford's life. The first was the 1871 Great Chicago Fire which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago which was decimated by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873 at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone . . .". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

Philippians 4:6-9 is a powerful explanation of how you can have the kind of peace that's sung about in this song ... peace in the midst of a storm!

A. Peace can be learned.

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
What ever my lot you have taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well, with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul

Philippians 4:9, Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me— everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

B. Peace is for the helpless.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials may come
Let this blessed assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And He shed His own blood for my soul

It is well, with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

Philippians 4:6a, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything ..."

C. Peace flows from the Cross .

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

It is well, with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

Philippians 4:6b, "... Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

"Thank Him for what He's done..." chief of which is dying on the cross for you.

D. Peace is in my future!

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
And the clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

Philippians 4:7, Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Until He comes, He is guarding your heart!

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, tend to our souls please. We are a wounded and weak crowd. Teach us to experience this kind of mysterious peace ... the kind we cannot manufacture or understand. Until Jesus comes, guard our hearts and minds and help us to live fully and passionately in Christ and for His sake. Amen."