



# Pastor's Comments

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**Northampton Assembly of God**

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## “It Is Well”

After Horatio Spafford experienced unimaginable sorrows culminating in the drowning of his four daughters at sea, he penned the lyrics of this hymn of profound faith in God, **“It Is Well With My Soul.”**

The Spaffords were devoted Christians. He was a successful lawyer. In 1870 their four-year-old son died of scarlet fever. The following year the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the real estate in which Horatio had made a huge investment. Two years later, he planned a family trip to Europe to rest and to assist his friend, D. L. Moody, in evangelistic campaigns in Great Britain. A last minute business transaction kept Spafford behind, but he sent his wife and four daughters as scheduled, expecting to follow in a few days. That ship was struck by another ship, and sank. His wife cabled two words, “Saved alone.”

As Spafford crossed the ocean to meet his grieving wife, he passed the place where his four daughters had drowned. There, in his sorrow, he penned these unforgettable words that express unwavering trust in God: *“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.”***

Like Job who suffered Satan's devastating blows and yet declared, *“I know that my redeemer liveth”* (Job 19:25), Spafford wrote, *“**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blessed assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.**”* Spafford's capability to proclaim **“It is well with my soul”** in such grief came from the **assurance of Christ's forgiveness of his sins.** He wrote, *“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, O my soul!**”* **Is it well with your soul?**