

God Will See Us Through Any Storm!

Devotional

Imagine everything in your life is coming up roses — you've married your soul mate, have five beautiful children and a booming career. How easy it would be to say to God, *"It is well with my soul."*

Now, imagine all of that is taken away — it's just you and your grief-stricken spouse, nursing horribly broken hearts. Would it be as easy then to say to God, "It is well with my soul?" But that is the powerful truth behind this classic hymn — **a truth that brings even more conviction to the soul-stirring lyrics.**

This incredible story of faith belongs to Horatio Spafford (1828-1888). Much like Job, he placed his trust in God during his life's prosperity, but also during its calamities. A devout Christian who had immersed himself in Scripture, he had many joyous years of his life. He was a prominent Chicago lawyer, who's business was thriving. He owned several properties throughout the city. He and his beloved wife had four beautiful daughters and one son. Life was more than good — it was blessed.

But faith, no matter how great, does not spare us from adversity.

Just as Horatio hit the pinnacle of his profession and financial success, things began to change. It began with the tragic loss of their son. Not long thereafter, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed nearly every real estate investment Horatio owned.

Just a few years later in 1873, Horatio decided to treat his wife and daughters to a much needed escape from the turmoil. He sent them on a boat trip to Europe, with plans to join them shortly after wrapping up some business in Chicago. Just a few days later, he received a dreadful telegram from his wife, "Saved alone..." It bore the excruciating news that family's ship had wrecked and all four of his daughters had perished.

Horatio was on his way to meet his heartbroken wife, passing over the same sea that had just claimed the lives of his remaining children. It was then that he put his pen to paper and the timeless hymn was born, beginning with the words:

*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.*

It is incredible to think such encouraging and uplifting words were born from the depths of such unimaginable sorrow. It is an example of truly inspiring faith and trust in the Lord. It goes to show the power our God has to overcome even the darkest times of our earthly life.

We pray this brought you inspiration. Be sure to share this story or this praise sheet with others who could use a reminder that our God will see them through any storm!

"HANDS IN PRAISE" is an American Sign Language (ASL) Christian choir sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church, Windsor, Colorado.

For information, go to www.HandsInPraiseASL.com or HandsInPraiseInfo@gmail.com

You are invited to join and no experience needed as sign language is learned one song at a time.

Please feel free to take this praise sheet home with you to read later or share with others who need the good news.



American Sign Language (ASL) provides a fuller understanding of the song as the DEAF would "see" the signs. American Sign Language has a different sentence structure but often it gets to the real meaning of a song that "the hearing" may miss, being distracted by rhyme or music. **See this song through new eyes.**

by Catherine Benitz, Hands In Praise Choir Member