

Story of “It is Well with my Soul”

- The author, Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888), was a lawyer from Chicago
- his son died of pneumonia a short time before his financial disaster
- fortune evaporated in the wake of the great Chicago Fire of 1871. Having invested heavily in real estate along Lake Michigan’s shoreline, he lost everything overnight
- Desiring a rest for his wife and four daughters Spafford planned a European trip for his family in 1873
- due to unexpected last-minute business developments, he had to remain in Chicago
- On November 22 the ship wrecked and sank in twelve minutes. Several days later the survivors were finally landed at Cardiff, Wales, and Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, ‘Saved alone.’
- Spafford left immediately to join his wife. This hymn is said to have been penned as he approached the area of the ocean thought to be where the ship carrying his daughters had sunk.

How can he say it is well?

2 Kings 4:10,16-20,26

Woman helped Elisha

10 *Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.*

She was a wealthy, respected woman. Hebrews talks about her great faith.

Elisha wants to bless woman

16 *And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant." 17 But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.*

She didn't want to get her hopes up. Why? Maybe she was disappointed in the past.

Child Dies

18When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. 19And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died.

Think about it, God had given her this child now the child is dead. Was she confused, angry, hurt, sick, can you imagine the emotions.

Woman goes and gets Elisha, sends servant

26Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?'" And she answered, "All is well."

Why did she say All is Well?

Was she fake? Was she just putting on a mask? She wasn't being real?

She Knew In the middle of her pain God is present

Psalms 46:1

*46 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

Psalm 34:18

*18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

You can say it is well when you change your definition of it is well.

Well to us is money in the bank, great family, great job, a great marriage.

Your marriage doesn't determine whether it is well.

Your finances doesn't determine whether it is well.

Your past doesn't determine whether it is well.

Your kids do not determine whether it is well.

Your family doesn't determine whether it is well.

Your situation doesn't determine whether it is well.

Your situation(which changes constantly) doesn't change God's truth.
(which never changes)

Romans 8:28

28And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Three things to do.

1. Love God
2. Trust he is Good
3. Know whatever happens is according to his purpose.

Do all this thru Prayer.

Prayer doesn't always change the situation.

But it will always change you.

Prayer will change you in ways that you will begin to trust God.

Prayer might now answer the why it happened. (it would be easier if it did)

Prayer will help you focus on God and trust in him knowing there is a purpose.

Today- some of us are allowing our situation to determine if we are well.

Thru prayer today God is going to ask you to trust him in his purpose.

He might reveal that purpose to you today or he might just ask you to trust him and stretch your faith a little.