



HYMNS

FOR MORNING DEVOTION

October 18, 2026

It Is Well with my Soul

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"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

One of the great hymns of our faith begins with these familiar words:

*"When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;"*

These words become even more meaningful when we understand the story behind them. In 1873, Horatio Spafford, a successful Chicago attorney, sent his wife and four daughters ahead of him on a voyage to Europe. Tragically, their ship collided with another vessel and sank. All four daughters perished, but his wife survived. Upon receiving the devastating news, Spafford traveled across the Atlantic to join his grieving wife. It was during this season of unimaginable grief that he wrote the words to *It Is Well with My Soul*.

What a remarkable testimony of faith!

Think about that for a moment. Spafford was not declaring that everything in his life was good. Far from it! He was declaring that even in the midst of unimaginable sorrow, his confidence rested in something greater than his circumstances. His confidence rested in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

In John 16:33, Jesus reminds His disciples, and us, that trouble is not merely a possibility in this life; it is a certainty. But notice something about this verse. Jesus makes it personal. Don't miss that three times in this short verse Jesus uses the word *"you."* God knows exactly what you are going through.

But the answer comes *"in me."* Our peace is not found in the absence of trouble, but in the presence of Christ.

Perhaps today you are enjoying a season of peace and blessing. Or perhaps you are walking through disappointment, uncertainty, grief, or a burden that few others even know about.

Whatever your circumstances, remember that the peace Christ offers is not dependent upon everything around you going according to plan. It is anchored in the One who has already overcome the world.

As you listen to this beautiful hymn, don't just enjoy the familiar melody. Take a moment to consider the words and the truth behind them.

My prayer is that, regardless of what today brings, we can confidently say alongside Horatio Spafford:

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