

Family TableTalk

Conversation 31

It Is Well With My Soul

read

Psalm 116:5-9

think

Horatio Spafford was a successful lawyer and real estate investor. He and his wife, Anna, had five children. He was involved in his church and community.

In 1871, their 4-year old son died of illness, and Horatio lost most of his business in the great Chicago fire. Two years later, Anna and their daughters were aboard an ocean liner that was struck, and sank within 12 minutes. Of his family, only Anna survived. Can you imagine Horatio's grief upon receiving this tragic news?

Crossing the Atlantic to meet his wife, Horatio's ship passed right by the place where his daughters had drowned. It was there that he wrote the words to the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul."

"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."

Following such loss, how could he write these words of trust? The third verse of the hymn tells us: "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!"

Psalm 116 shows God's mercy: He "delivered my soul from death." I hold on to this powerful truth and amazing hope: Jesus, and what He did on the cross, has given me eternal life.

With Him, we can face our difficult times and say: "It is well with my soul."

apply

- What difficulties or disappointments are you facing right now?
- Can Christians be frustrated or disappointed with circumstances and still experience peace?
- What would it look like for you to live as if the Lord has delivered you from death? As if your soul is at rest?

pray

God, you have been so good to me - you delivered my soul from death! Open my eyes and heart to experience even more of your saving grace. I no longer bear the burden of sin because of Jesus. Especially in these confusing times, let me say "It is well with my soul" and live that truth. Amen.

by Layne Hedden

Layne Hedden is a youth leader at Harvest Presbyterian Church in Medina, OH, and a member of the CPYU board. She and her husband John have three sons, and are active foster parents.

cpyu.org  CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

© 2020 Center For Parent/Youth Understanding