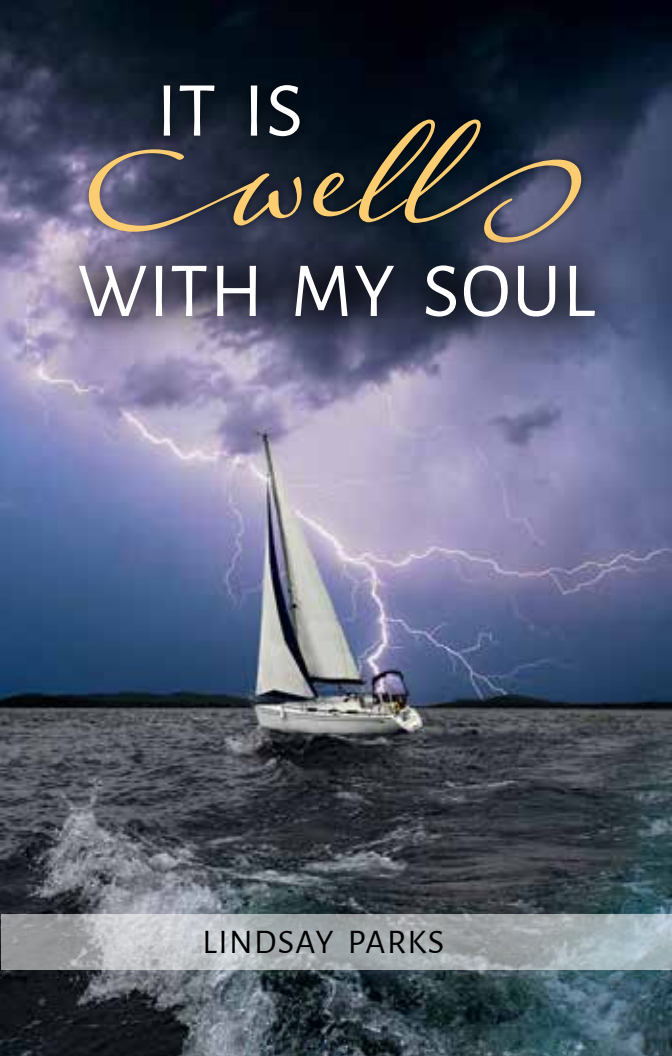
IT IS *well* WITH MY SOUL



LINDSAY PARKS

This hymn would find its place on any list of favorite hymns. The story behind it shows how the soul of a Christian, saved by God's amazing grace, responds to the deepest of tragedies.

Horatio Gates Spafford was a wealthy lawyer and businessman from Chicago. In the 1870s, he and his wife suffered the death of their 4-year-old son from scarlet fever. Then, the great Chicago fire destroyed many of his buildings and warehouses.

The family planned a vacation in Europe, but he was not able to leave with his wife and 4 daughters – they sailed on ahead, and he planned to follow them. In the middle of the night on November 22, 1873, their ship was struck by another and quickly sank. Mrs. Spafford prayed with the 4 girls, but they all drowned. When she was rescued and taken to England, she telegraphed to her husband "SAVED ALONE." It is said he kept it framed and hung it in his office for years.

He booked passage on the next ship, to meet his wife. When they were over the spot

where the accident happened, the captain called him to the bridge. Back in his cabin, he wrote these words: *"It is well. The will of the Lord be done."* Perhaps that very night, he wrote this amazing hymn.

The third verse explains the spiritual strength Spafford knew, as he dealt with this unimaginable tragedy. He had trusted Christ as his Saviour; he knew that his sins were forgiven; and he knew that his family, also believers, were safe home in Heaven.

My sin, O the bliss
of this glorious thought,
My sin, not in part,
but the whole
Is nailed to His cross,
and I bear it no more–
Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! O my soul!

Dear reader – do you know the comfort and peace of sins forgiven? This dear man had a time in his life almost as heartbreaking as that of Job in the Bible, but he was still able to trust in the God Who had saved him. This

God had given His own beloved Son to the cross on Calvary, and had punished Him for sin He had never committed. The Spaffords, as lost and guilty sinners, had availed themselves of this great salvation, and had understood that when Christ suffered on that cross, He had suffered for them, and in their place.

Have YOU ever been saved? Only those who are saved will ever be in Heaven. **"There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life"** (REVELATION 21:27 NKJV). No religion or church can ever save you. But God is offering salvation to you at this very moment, if you accept His Son as your personal Saviour!

Brody Thibodeau
Call or Text 902 206 1453
Email bwthib@gmail.com

International Bible House Publishing Society
WWW.IBHGOSPEL.COM