

# It is Well

by Neal Breeding  
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*Actor 1 stands with Hymnal open (410 of The Baptist Hymnal 1991) and starts singing ("It Is Well with My Soul" by Horatio G Spafford). Actor 2 stand further back (behind) Actor 1 until his/her lines come into the sketch. Then he/she moves up to say his/her lines and then steps back when the singing begins again. Words in italic should be emphasized.*

**Actor 1:** (*singing*) "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows

like sea billows roll, whatever my lot thou has taught me to say

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

**Actor 2:** (*interrupting*) Hey wait a minute, I have a question.

**Actor 1:** About what?

**Actor 2:** What you are singing. What do you mean by *attendeth my way*?

**Actor 1:** That phrase means comes my way.

**Actor 2:** Ok, so then what is a *billow*? Obviously it has something to do with the sea?

**Actor 1:** (*said patiently*) It is "a large wave or swell of water,"\* in this case, in the sea.

**Actor 2:** And a *Lot*? I thought Lot was someone in the Bible, or what real estate agents try to sell?

**Actor 1:** (*flustered*) Well it is, I mean she is, I mean-- (*pause to collect thoughts*)

in this song I believe the writer is saying sometimes circumstances in our life happen and it feels like someone is rolling dice to make situations occur which we have no control over. Some are good, but some seem bad. (*pauses*)

Proverbs 16:33 says "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the

Lord." So when we *think* we have landed a bad roll of the dice, we must remember God is in control. (*pauses*) Does that make sense?

**Actor 2:** (*said slowly as if he/she is thinking about it as he/she says it*) Yes.

**Actor 1:** (*politely*) Anything else?

**Actor 2:** No, but I'll let you know if there is. (*actor steps back and listens as Actor 1 begins to sing again*)

**Actor 1:** "Tho' Satan should buffet tho' trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is..."

**Actor 2:** (*interrupting*) Wait a minute, I have another question.

**Actor 1:** Oh, ok. (*still said kindly*) What is it?

**Actor 2:** What does it mean that Satan *should buffet*, and *blest*, what does that mean? I know what assurance means, but *blest*? What a word?

**Actor 1:** First, *buffet* means "to hit or beat, especially repeatedly" And *blest* means "to honor as holy; glorify.\*"

So it means that Satan will hit us repeatedly with bad things to try to make us stumble, and when he does, we have Holy assurance that nothing Satan throws at us is too great to handle, because God is *ultimately* in control.

**Actor 2:** (*said in amazement*) Wow! That is deep.

**Actor 1:** Yes is it, Let's see, where was I?

**Actor 2:** (*said helpfully*) The third verse.

**Actor 1:** Oh, thanks. (*singing and occasionally glancing at Actor 2 waiting for the interruption*) "My sin -- oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't: 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. It is..." (*looking at Actor 2 and then realizing that he/she is about to interrupt he/she stops singing and says with a slight bit of irritation*) what is it? What don't you understand?

**Actor 2:** The whole first part of that verse. I understand Jesus shed his blood for *all* of our sins, not just a *few* of them. But I just don't understand anything before that?

**Actor 1:** It is probable *bliss* which is throwing off your comprehension. It means, "the Intense joy or delight of salvation or a spiritual joy.\*" The fact all of our sins are for given should give us an intense happiness, because our sins died on the cross with Jesus!

**Actor 2:** I understand! Wow, this is really a good song! (*pause*) So if I have peace that attendeths my way, I should be content. And no matter how high the billows of life my might be and no matter what my lot is and no matter how many times Satan might buffet me, (*pause*) I should blest these trials with a blissful attitude. (*pause*) Right?

**Actor 1:** Exactly! And you know why we can do this?

**Actor 2:** (*searching hard for the right answer and with excitement, then disappointment*) --uhhhh... No?

**Actor 1:** It tells us in the fourth verse. Why don't you read it, *before* I sing it and see if you understand it? Ok.

**Actor 2:** (*reads mumbling, low, and quickly the audience doesn't have to understand him/her*) "And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the

clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul." (*pauses to think about what he/she read and then answers excitedly*) Yes! I understand! We can find peace in our soul because there is a day Jesus is coming back to take us home, and on that day, we will be able to see our faith!

**Actor 1:** (*excited that Actor 2 understands*) Yes! You have got it! Now can I sing the fourth and *final* verse?

**Actor 2:** Please do!

**Actor 1:** Thanks. (*pause*) Why don't you sing it with me?

### **(ending)**

**Both:** "And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul. It is well, with my soul, it is well it is well with my soul."

### **(optional ending)**

**Both:** "And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight..."

**Actor 2:** (*interrupting*) Wait a second...

**Actor 1:** What now? I thought you understood.

**Actor 2:** I do, but why don't we ask them (*pointing to the audience*) to sing with us on this last verse.

**Actor 1:** Oh, (*pauses*) that is a good idea. Please join and sing with us.

"And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,

Even so, it is well with my soul.

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

*(actors exit while singing)*

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