



Volume 10, No. 5, May, 2022



### *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."*

*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!*

*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.*

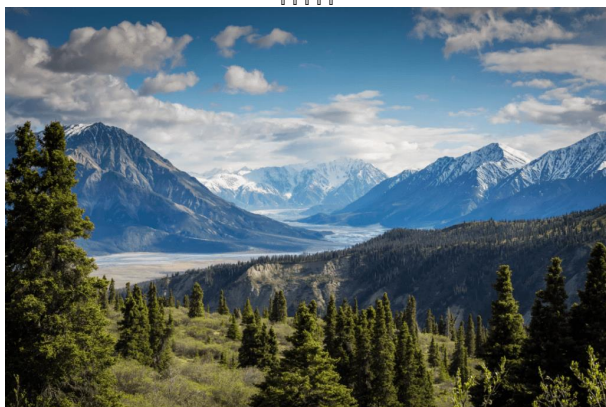
#### **Refrain:**

*It is well (It is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**WORDS: Stuart K. Hine (alt. 1949)**

**MUSIC: Sweedish Folk Melody**

**Arranged: Stuart K. Hine (w. 1949)**



### **Binding up the Broken Hearted**

In the book of Luke, we can read about a man who was beaten and left half dead. A priest and a Levite passed by and did not help the man. A Samaritan, a man most Jewish people shunned, came by and not only bound up his wounds, but took him to an inn and promised to pay for any additional care the man needed until he returned. We would like to think we would do the same, but would we? In reality, we won't likely encounter such a situation, but we may find other occasions that require our care and comforting.

Have you ever seen a small child sitting aside from others with shoulders slumped and eyes downcast? Did you investigate and try to help? Sometimes that child just needs a friend to hold her hand for a few moments. Has a child ever brought you a sparkly piece of gravel? Did you accept it with a smile and thank you, or did you drop it in the dirt as a worthless gift? That pretty little rock might be the only gift the child had to offer. Did you value it as the gift intended? We need to be mindful of how wounded a child's ego can be over what seems to us like a small thing.

Do you know a sister who is going through a particularly trying time? Do you listen and honor the trust she placed with you by sharing her concerns? Proverbs 11:13 tells us, "One who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, but one who is trustworthy conceals a matter." There are times when we may be in trouble and need to "talk through" a problem. We don't need advice. We don't need someone to share with another involved party. We don't need a solution. We just need a sounding board to sort our thoughts and feelings. Are you the kind of sister who can honor that by not sharing any of that conversation with others? Being trustworthy with confidences is a special kind of binding up wounds.

Another unique way to “bind up wounds” is by helping someone research a problem. It might be the need for a business address, or something more serious. When a friend gets a serious medical diagnosis, it is often confusing and terrifying. Knowledge can help to calm some of that fear, but particularly elderly people have no clue how to research on the internet. Can you help? Do you help? Google, DuckDuckGo, MetaCrawler, and other search engines and sites like WebMD can be a real help in understanding a diagnosis and prognosis. Are you close enough to your brother or sister to offer such help?

Have you ever tried to help and found what you offered was not helpful? I have. My husband and I went through a period of infertility and then we did have a baby girl, but she was three months premature. It was a terrifying time, and I had friends who wanted to help. Some had also experienced infertility and/or difficult pregnancies. When they shared their experiences, I felt compassion for them, but it didn’t comfort me. I felt my crisis was unique to me, and to some degree it was, but if I had been more open to their sharing it might have comforted me. In my current state of mind, it did not. A simple prayer for us and our baby would have been much more comforting. After that experience, I now realize I need to be more sensitive to the feelings of those I am trying to help.

Our responsibility is huge. We need to recognize a crisis and then determine how, or even if, we can help. The Samaritan in our account above did what he could. He bound up the man’s wounds, but then he turned the man over to someone more qualified at that time to help him. There are times when we need to do that as well. I may be able to research a medical diagnosis, but I am not a doctor, and I am not privy to any patient’s unique history. Learning when I can be helpful and when I need to let others is important. May God grant us that wisdom as we interact with one another.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



### **BINDING UP THE BROKENHEARTED**

Who in the Bible was brokenhearted or broken in spirit? The children of Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt come to my mind. As slaves, they had few if any rights. Such slavery would be enough cause to be brokenhearted, in my opinion.

At one point, Pharaoh ordered that all male children born to the Hebrews in Egypt be killed at birth. Moses was born during that time, but his mother feared God and

kept him hidden for three months. She eventually put him in a wicker basket covered with tar and pitch and placed him in the reeds along the Nile River. Pharaoh’s daughter found him and “adopted” him. There Moses received an Egyptian education and experienced a comfortable life.

Moses later fled from Egypt and spent many years as a shepherd in Midian. God later called him to bring the Israelites out of slavery, but they were not receptive to the message Moses carried. Exodus 6:9 tells us, *Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.*

Have you ever seen anyone who was brokenhearted? Some widows and/or widowers become reclusive and withdraw from life as much as they can. Those I have seen have felt lost, hopeless, lonely, devastated. David knew about being brokenhearted. In Psalm 34:18, he wrote, *the LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.* In Psalm 147:3, he also wrote, *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*



The New Testament tells of a Jewish man, in a story we call “The Good Samaritan.” Upon finding the man who had been left for dead, the Samaritan left money with the innkeeper to pay for the man’s future care with a promise to return and pay whatever more was necessary. Though the man’s body was “broken” by the actions of evil robbers, his life was saved by a supposed enemy.

That is exactly what Jesus does for us. <sup>23</sup>*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* Romans 3:23. All of us at some time have been spiritually broken by sin and in need of help. God sent His Son to be the perfect sacrifice to take away our sins. By His sacrifice, we are freed from the slavery of sin that held us in bondage.

One day, a little girl had been visiting her friend and came home later than her mother had expected. When her mother asked the reason for the delay, the child said, “I was helping Jane. Her doll broke.” The mother asked, “Did you help her fix it?” The little girl said, “No. I helped her cry.” Sometimes crying with those who are hurting helps heal their wounds.

Once a story appeared in Readers Digest that goes like this. A family had an unexpected death in their family. The neighbor, knowing that the family was in deep

distress, knocked on their door. He said, "I'm just here to shine all your shoes." As distraught as they were, he knew they might not think to shine their shoes for the funeral. He wanted to be of service to them. He was doing his part to bind up their broken hearts. Paul tells us in Romans 12:15 to, *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep*. Sometimes just being there helps broken hearts begin to heal.

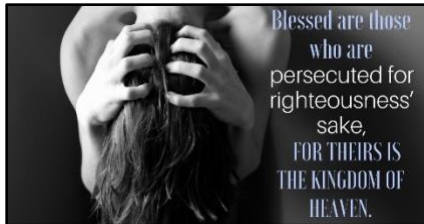
Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri



## THE PERSECUTED

The last Beatitude, Number 8, is very important and is a difficult and sobering one. Listed within it, however, are two occurrences of "*Blessed*," and one "*Rejoice and be glad*."

Matthew 5:10-12: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed*



*are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you*

*because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. In the same manner, they persecuted the prophets who went before you."*

According to "Got Questions," the word *blessed* was a familiar term for Jesus' first-century audience. Rather than a fleeting happiness dependent on current circumstances, the blessedness that Jesus spoke of is deep, abiding, unshakable joy rooted in the assurance of God's blessing, both in the present and in the future.

But how could anyone feel blessed if they are persecuted because of Christ? Persecution is never pleasant. It involves suffering, rejection, and often severe pain or even death. The key is Jesus' qualification that the blessed persecution comes "for righteousness' sake." People are persecuted for various reasons—some for doing evil (that would be punishment). But Jesus wasn't offering a general blessing to all victims of persecution for any reason. No, He offered it only to those who were persecuted for actively pursuing the kingdom of righteousness and because of their faith in Jesus Christ. This blessing is even for when a believer is made to feel like an outcast for believing something "out-of-date" and ancient. All of these are very real persecutions that can greatly affect an individual.

Although all persecution is difficult, the Lord promises us that we are blessed and not alone. Rather than feeling discouraged, dismayed, enraged, or depressed, believers who find themselves persecuted for openly living for Christ and His kingdom have good reason to rejoice and be glad—for their reward in heaven is great. I pray and hope we can live up to this standard, "*Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him.*" Hebrews 12:22

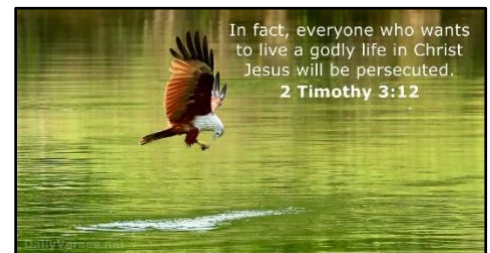
Peter put it this way: "*If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.*" 1 Peter 2:20. We get a publication called, "Tortured For Christ," which shares stories of how it is for Christians in Muslim, Buddhist, and communist countries. They face torture and death on a regular basis, just as did God's prophets in the Old Testament.

*"Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels."* Acts 7:52-53

Jesus predicted it for Jesus' followers: "*If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*" John 15:19. "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" Romans 12:2.

Paul said: "*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...*" 2 Timothy 3:12.

All of His apostles except John were executed in one way or another. The



Romans fed Christians to the lions and other beasts in the large arenas for sport. Many bible reformers were burned at the stake in medieval days. But, with the population increase, more Christians have been killed for Christ in the past 100 years than in the past 2,000 years.

Can we remember to pray for the tortured and killed Christians in the other countries? And for the harassed in this country? It happens here, too, but we don't hear about it so much. Many Christians find themselves the subject of mocking and jokes at work. If they refuse a



bribe from a boss to do something illicit, they suffer for it or are fired. Many times, their children in schools are harassed for standing up for Christ or for refusing drugs, sex, and other temptations.

I pray for our grandchildren. They have it so much worse than we did, especially with social media. We already know that it's easier to just live carefree and go with the flow, rather than to truly follow Christ and go against the flow. Look around. What is everybody else doing? Are they entertained by garbage on the Internet, or are they protecting their hearts? Are they gossiping at the expense of others? Chances are good that if "everybody's doing it," you probably shouldn't. God wants us to stand up for what is right! The godly life requires that we go against the flow.

Christians need to rely on the Holy Spirit within them to persevere. *"Father, help us to go against the flow. Give us the courage we need to do the right thing and be different, especially when it involves rejection and persecution. In YOU, we don't stand alone, and we are greatly blessed. Amen."*

Marilyn Peconovsky, Cresco, Iowa

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## BROKENHEARTEDNESS

As I write this, I am thinking of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine. They have had to flee their homes, not knowing what the future holds for them. They fled, leaving all their possession not knowing where their next meal is coming from. Will they find somewhere to sleep tonight? Their whole lives have been disrupted. Are they brokenhearted? They have been attacked by someone who is doing Satan's bidding.

I can't begin to know how brokenhearted they are! Christians in other places are also being persecuted just because they are Christians. Is their faith getting weak? Is their hope diminishing? Will they continue to totally trust in the Father? I have never been in their shoes, and yet I know that for many of them or all, this persecution will only make them stronger spiritually. God does bind up the brokenhearted. In Isaiah 61:1 He goes with and cares for them wherever they go, and He uses us to help in any way we can.

Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed. Psalm 147:3. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." In Psalm 109:16, David is speaking about evil persons, the ones who never think of doing a kindness for others. The evil

person "hounds to death the poor, the needy, and the brokenhearted." David knew it then, and we know those kinds of people today.

Brokenheartedness is not a stranger to us. Many of us have been brokenhearted about many things, especially family. But, are we brokenhearted for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering? Are we brokenhearted about our own sin—sin that sent Jesus to the cross to take our place so that our sins could be removed?

Christians should be a brokenhearted lot, but that doesn't mean we go around with sad and sour faces. We have joy in our hearts because we are saved. We have hope, no matter what happens in this life!

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri

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**June 25-28, 2022**

*Make your reservations now!*

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