

Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant.

Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871.

Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home.

However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, **the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk.** More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, **survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"**

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, **summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.**¹

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. **He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn:**

play : <https://youtu.be/ZYrL9ea1XUg>

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—

Life it can be messy We all know this to be true.

- relationships, jobs, standing for faith in Christ, Politics, economy, family emergencies, death, taxes, too much money left at the end of the month can drive us to despair.

- **if we look at the web**, we do searches looking for help. IT SEEMS the situation the world is facing IS GETTING WORSE, Stats say people are more isolated, stressed, Stresses can be overwhelming.

Just this PAST week the Journal ran an article how 30% of Albertans are insolvent, USING CREDIT TO PAY BILLS with another 20% only \$200 away from insolvency each month.

the struggling oil patch and National Politics are impacting huge swathes of the population.

Bankruptcies are up from 1000 in a month to over 1500. Can you imagine the stress on people who are honest & hard working, but going to lose everything?

the Stress & fear in China from the Corona virus has impacted economies all over the world.

We look around , people are facing Major national Crisis, but also mini ones, personal ones involving, our local towns, neighbors, maybe even the Person sitting next to you Maybe it is you or someone close to you.

I thought as a Christian life was supposed to be Grand!

- Where is the Genie? hOW COME I HAVEN'T GOTTEN my PORTION OF the American Property Gospel,It was led to expect?

life is so Unfair!

You know something,REGARDLESS OF WHERE CRISIS IS HAPPENING it really matters when YOU are in the midst of IT -

It - i s- A - real Crisis -to YOU!

We don't expect it, but it happens-

Where is GOD!?

- **When things in Life got tough** a few years ago went through a bit of a crisis when the economy downturned and my Staff , who I depended on,QUIT left- I thought I was going to lose my business

I talked to Our Last Pastor / Who also was a friend from bible college, about it. pASTOR gRANT

I **said I might lose my biz ,**

- **He said okay, then what?**

after I said what could happen he said: then what?

Here is the main thing? LIFE goes on...

Life Goes On - my MOM dies I MISSED SAYING GOOD BYE

I DRIVE HOME and Kids still Play, Ladies plant gardens I wanted to stop my car and jump out and scream **“MY MOMMY DIED”!**

But as I drove on I knew **Jesus promised a comforter**, NOT a lifeboat, OR A "go past GO" card

-Story - Puff up—

Boy becoming man sit son stump blindfolded all night until morning sees dad 20 paces away on stump keeping guard

A couple of years ago I was sitting in my garage on a Saturday afternoon, working on my trike with the radio playing in the background and I found myself tearing up. Whats going on?!

I began focusing on the song playing on the radio

Play: <https://youtu.be/B6fA35Ved-Y>

I still cannot listen to this without getting emotional and thankful

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ROMANS 8:28

WE know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

This is probably the most misquoted promise in the Bible.

- is not a blanket promise to all individuals that God will turn all their mistakes and unfortunate circumstances into "good."

EVEN THOUGH IT HAS GIVEN GREAT COMFORT TO MANY IN ALL KINDS OF CRISIS

It is a **promise to those who have been called according to His purpose.**

And the good God promises those in relationship with Him **is not** what we necessarily consider good, but what God has determined is eternally good, which the writer of Romans clarifies for us in the very next verse (Romans 8:29): **"those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."**

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1. In other words, as you are loving God and seeking His purposes for your life, **He will allow all circumstances – good and bad – to make you more like Jesus.** That is the good that God works out of all our circumstances as we surrender them to Him and seek to be more like Christ.

2. **Remember Our time here is short compared to the Rest of eternity** God places things in our lives to help us trust him, depend on HIM, preparing us for eternity!

3. **We must take the long look (Chances of eternity)**

But Pastor Larry it Hurts/ so bad NOW

I know

So Does He!

Psalm 34:18 it makes a powerful declaration: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

God sees and knows your struggles.

The Song: When peace like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll— **It is well with my soul,**

Jesus went through the same magnitude or even a greater deal of trials than we did, and He can relate with your pain. And what God hears, He does not ignore.

Hebrews 13:5 "Never will I leave you, nor will I ever forsake you."

Here are some Promises from His Word for us to remember and cling to when in the midst of struggles

1. AGAIN - God Hears Us

Psalm 34:18 a powerful declaration it makes: ***"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."***

2. Our Work Will Not Be in Vain

1 Corinthians 15:58 declares, ***"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."***

As we work hard to conquer those battles, God fights with us and our efforts will not be for nothing. You will receive your reward in due time.

3. We Can Rest in Christ

There is no room for quitting in God's kingdom, but there sure is more than enough room for resting. Jesus makes an invitation to all of us to come to Him when we are burdened and weary and experience His rest (Matthew 11:28-29). **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."**

Because God fights for us, we can lay down our armour every so often to allow our Shepherd to lead us by green pastures and quiet waters.

4. The Struggle Will Build Our Character

Romans 5:3-4 says, ***"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."***

Those who struggle will always come out of a struggle with scars, but they will also come out of it stronger and better. That's God's promise to you if you're struggling. Though we can't always improve our external circumstances, we have control over our internal character.

- James 1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

5. God's Grace Will Be More Than Sufficient

(2 Corinthians 12:9). 9 But he said to me, ***"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. ***For when I am weak, then I am strong."*** -God's power works best in our deepest weaknesses It doesn't always feel good to admit weakness, but it gives God an avenue to show us what He's really capable of if we allow Him to do His work through us and through our situation.

6. Ask the Lord to calm your restless heart regarding your finances. Luke 12:29-31(NKJV) – “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.” DO NOT SEEK BUT BE A GOOD STEWARD OF WHAT YOU HAVE , YOUR JOB ETC.

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1. Here are some more verses to help us when we are struggling:

2. 2 Corinthians 1:4-5...Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.” -

4. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” -

Today if you are in Crisis,

God said he would be there,

He Provides a - comforter

WE NEED TO Develop our relationship with The Living God

- Develop the Habit, make time , make it a priority to Read Gods Word - It God Speaking to you

- Listen to the Holy Spirit in Your life

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Today if you are in Crisis,

The church can help a bit - we have a benevolent fund, talk tp Pastor Shannon, myself or an elder

Today if you are in Crisis,

We WANT TO pray with you now ,

So let us Pray with everyone head bowed, eyes closed

- if you are struggling with any issue - raise your hand with a unspoken request.

Lord You hear us when we are in dark places.

We here the cries of Margery over the loss of her Grand doughtier- Taryn

Other prayer include those who have there hands up

Today if you are in Crisis,- We are a community, we need each other, Pride has nothing to do with your issue, You are not alone - some one here has probably gone through similar times!

Come up after the service, the elders and caring ladies are here to listen and pray can meet

- or call on Pastor Shannon or my self , one of the elders, your small group leader, or even your small group during the week BUT TALK TO SOMEONE!

Today if you are in Crisis,

WE hear you , God hears you! and is here if you let Him in You are not alone

I want to close on an up beat vibe to encourage you when you are struggling

Listen to this Psalm

- Psalm 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

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Close with this Video:

<https://youtu.be/FZECFq4BvRQ>

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Benediction

If you would like prayer

Come up and someone willl meet you

<https://youtu.be/T9XFO1oSk68>

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Thank you