

He Won't Fail



A Devotional

Greetings

Hello friend! If you are reading this, we want you to know that we have been praying for you.

During the year 2024 Glen Haven has celebrated many triumphs together. We have seen souls saved, and lives changed by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has richly poured out his blessings upon us as a church family.

We have also seen many difficult days - and yet – God has proven to be faithful! We didn't know what all we would face as a church family in 2024, but God did. In His kindness, God has shown us in so many ways His bountiful provision for us by His Son Jesus Christ, the indwelling of the Spirit of God, the enduring Word of God, and the family of God!

Together we can testify that God has shown us time and again that **HE WON'T FAIL!**

This fall our Worship Arts Ministry released an album, under the same name, as an anthem of songs that we can sing to God and confess our confident faith and hope in Him.

As a church staff we have composed a companion devotional guide for each of these songs as a gift to you.

We pray that as you read these devotions, and meditate on the Word of God, that it will...

- Increase your confident trust in Christ.
- Help you to hear the voice of God from His Word.
- Multiply your offerings of worship.
- Satisfy your soul in the joy of His presence.

May God bless you, and may Christ be made known through you!

No matter what the day may hold remember... He won't fail.

In Christ,

Pastor Brady

Honey in the Rock

Pastor Matt Puckett

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19)

If you're anything like me, you absolutely love the song Honey in the Rock. Also, if you're anything like me, you probably wondered the first time you heard it, "What do they mean when they sing the line, 'there's honey in the rock'?" The next few lyrics make more sense to us, "water in the stone, manna on the ground, no matter where I go." In Exodus 16-17 we read the amazing story of how God miraculously provided food for the nation of Israel in the wilderness through manna and provided water that literally flowed from rocks. These accounts are powerful reminders of God's gracious provision for His children. But where in the Bible do we see honey coming from rocks?

The answer is found in Deuteronomy 32:13. Honey and olive oil were valuable commodities in the ancient Mideast, but a desert is the last place you would think to look for them. Especially one that is rocky and barren. But bees often build their hives in unlikely places, and olive trees are world renowned for their ability to thrive in desolate places. So this passage, and the song we sing based on it, refers to God's ability to provide valuable things in unlikely places.

What is it that you need? Not want, but need. I'm not talking about frivolous or light things, but the things that you really need. Is it encouragement in a difficult situation? Is it peace when life gets stormy? Have you exhausted all your strength and need God to come through in your circumstances? Whatever it is, we all have needs in our life.

In Philippians 4:19, Paul boldly states that "my God will supply all your

needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” There are three things I want to focus on in this verse. First, it says “all your needs.” There is no need that you have that God isn’t willing to meet. Our Heavenly Father loves to bless His children and meet their needs. Let’s be clear, this says needs, not wants. God will never give his children anything sinful or something that isn’t good for them. But He will always give us the good things He knows we truly need.

Second, the verse says that our supply comes from His riches. God’s storehouse is bottomless. He will never tell us “I’m sorry, but my resources have run out. There’s a deficiency, a supply chain issue.” Whatever you need from God, rest assured that He has a never ending of abundance for you. Finally, His riches are based in Jesus Christ. All our needs are satisfied in the person of Jesus Christ. Do you need peace in the middle of a storm? Look to Jesus. Patience in the face of adversity? Find it in His presence. Comfort in the midst of terrible grief? Let His love surround you.

Going forward, I hope that this song reminds you that God not only provides for His children, but that He provides even in the most unlikely of places. You may be walking in a desert, but look and see the honey in the rock, His blessings and love for you. My prayer is that, like the song says, we will always remember that “I have all that I need...you are all that I need!”

Prayer: *Lord, you know what our needs are at this exact moment. Thank you that you graciously provide for us in all things, and especially in your Son, Jesus!*

Sunday is Coming

Pastor Jarrett Fletcher

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

When we think of something that's *good*, we don't typically think of someone suffering or dying. Much less an innocent person unjustly suffering and dying. But that's exactly what we do when we call the Friday before Easter "*Good Friday*." What could possibly be *good* about that day?

If we look at the circumstances of that Friday, they certainly do not appear to be *good*. The Son of God, the Eternal Word, the Creator Incarnate who healed the sick, raised the dead, and preached good news to the poor, hung on a Roman cross awaiting His death. He was scorned by His own people and abandoned by most of His disciples. Not *good* by any stretch of the imagination.

But there's more to the circumstances than what meets the eye. This was no ordinary Roman crucifixion. Jesus of Nazareth was unjustly condemned, but he was there willingly. "*He let those soldiers take Him in, as His friend betrayed Him with a kiss. There before the mocking crowd, like a lamb to the slaughter didn't make a sound. Then He carried that cross to Calvary.*" Why? So he could "*shed His blood to set us free!*"

The cross shows us that even in the most unjust evil, God is at work bringing about the greatest good. All of mankind was separated from God because of our sin, and our only hope of salvation was for the Perfect Lamb of God to come, live, and die for us. We could only be reconciled to God if Jesus absorbed the wrath of God and paid the wages of our sin, which is death. And He did exactly that. He breathed His last breath on the cross and bowed His head, "*the Son of God and man was dead.*"

“But that wasn’t the end.” What wasn’t the end? Friday! A Sunday was coming- a day that was a part of the plan all along. When that Sunday came, the women went to the tomb and found a rolled away stone. They were greeted with a question, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” He’s alive!

There’s the good! In fact, it’s the greatest good in all of human history. The Son of God died for our sins *and* rose from the dead to defeat sin and death forever! But here’s the lesson for us: without the death, there could be no resurrection. Without Friday, there could be no Sunday.

Friday’s good cause Sunday’s coming

For all those who have trusted Christ, Jesus’ death and resurrection is a picture of how God works in our lives. God promises to work *everything* out for our good and His glory, including our pain and suffering. Even in all our Fridays, there is a Sunday coming. Jesus will return and we will obtain our resurrection bodies. On that day, we will see all the good that God has worked through our trials, and all the glory that it has brought Him. But until that day, *“we watch and wait, like a bride for a groom, Oh church arise, He’s coming soon.”*

Prayer: *Father, thank you for your promise that you will work all things for our good and your glory. We praise you for the perfect example of that promise that we see in your Son on Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Help us to look to Him and find strength to trust you in the midst of whatever we are going through, knowing that our Sunday is coming, too. Amen.*

The Blood Will Never Lose its Power

Pastor Dustin Tumbleston

He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:12-14)

Those outside Christianity find it strange when the Church sings about the blood of Christ. It is foreign in the worldly context, and they scoff at what they do not understand. On the other hand, we give praise about His sacrifice on the cross. That sacrifice meant something. There is more to this sacrifice than anything that the world has or ever will experience. It is worth a closer inspection.

So what exactly is the power that is found in the blood of Christ? Why did his blood need to be shed? How could it never lose its power? The answer to these questions is the resting place for our hope. Without this knowledge, uncertainty would reign in our hearts. With it, however, we abide in a hope and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

So what is this power? His blood shed is the power unto salvation. It is the means that *secured an eternal redemption* (v. 12) bringing us into right relationship with God. Apart from it, no one is reconciled to God, but through it, those who place their faith in Christ become the sons and daughters of God.

Why is it necessary? God made clear that the price for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). He gave the nation of Israel a sacrificial system in which to atone for sins. However, under that system there was no end to the required

sacrifice. In addition, there was no hope for the rest of mankind who were not Jewish.

How will it never lose its power? Christ was the perfect sacrifice, without sin and without shame. However, he took our sin and shame on himself at the cross. 1 John 2:2 tells us, "*and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*". He paid a price that no one else could, and he did so for the world. It is a one-time sacrifice for all time. Nothing more is needed, nor does it need repeating. His work is everlasting.

As the means of redemption for those of us who are in Christ, it is a constant reminder of our identity. This fixed assurance shines through "on the highest mountain" and in "the lowest valleys" of life. When the enemy uses temptations to target us when life is going so well, we remember our need for Christ's sacrifice. We remember that he has not left us alone, and we can resist the temptation in him. When the enemy uses hardships and failures to try and convince us that it was not enough, we remember the sufficiency of Christ. Nothing can separate us from God. It does not rest in our ability or performance. We are not the atoning sacrifice, Christ is. We simply offer our lives daily as a sacrifice out of thankfulness for what He has given us eternally.

Prayer: *Father, thank you for the giving of your Son. Please help me to always rest in Christ's work. Fill me with hope through your Spirit to look beyond myself and to your promises. Fill me daily with strength to walk by the Spirit and honor you.*

Name Above All Names

Pastor Kevin Cable

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

What's in a name? We all have one. Names give us a real sense of personal identity along with belonging within our families. We like to hear our own names. Every week when I speak to a child in kid ministry and use their name, their attention is heightened. There's power in a name.

We see in the Old Testament God changing the name of Abram to Abraham in Genesis 17. In Biblical Hebrew, Abraham means "father of a multitude." In verse 7 the Lord made an everlasting covenant with Abram that He would be God to Abram and his descendants. In verse 6, God promised Abraham would be fruitful and kings will come from his heritage. We later learn Christ is in the lineage of Abraham. Jesus Christ is the main fulfillment of that promise.

Moreover, in the New Testament, Saul in the book of Acts is called Paul after his conversion to Christ. Paul will go on to start many churches throughout the region and lead many people to Christ. There's power in a name.

We arrive at our song, "*Name Above All Names*." The power that is in the name of Jesus is summed up by Acts 4:12 which says, "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we much be saved." It is through faith in Jesus Christ that the Lord turns our inevitable, deserved, and eternal grave into a new beginning just as Jesus was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago. So, the name that has the most power of all is the name of Jesus.

What's in a name? The answer is eternity. Salvation, eternal life in heaven, is only possible through the name of Jesus. If that is something you already secured, then be thankful and share Christ with others that God puts in your path.

Prayer: *Father thank you for allowing me to hear my name when you called me to salvation. I praise you for your grace and mercy. Allow me to have compassion for others you created. Give me opportunities to share your name and power to save with a world that is lacking hope.*

Firm Foundation

Harrison Smith

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who build his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 7:24-27)

When I heard this worship song for the first time, I couldn't help but think of the old story about the three little pigs. You know, the one we've all been told when we were kids. The first pig built his house with straw, the second pig built his house with sticks, and the third pig built his house with bricks. When the enemy came knocking, the houses made of straw and sticks didn't stand a chance, but the house made of bricks stood strong. In Matthew 7, Jesus uses a similar story to provide imagery to how we should structure our lives. Jesus Christ is the solid rock, our "Firm Foundation."

I love the lyric, "I've still got joy in chaos; I've got peace that makes no sense". Our lives are chaotic, and the enemy is waiting around every corner. This world is full of stumbling blocks, and we are reminded time and time again that Christ is our only hope. The joy of Christ in our lives should be evident to everyone around us, and our trust can only be found in Him. When we go through hard times, we look up to heaven and He gives us peace. God provides our comfort in times of need, and he is faithful through every season. This is sometimes the best witnessing tool for Christians to spread the good news to those around us. They watch us go through pain and hardships, but then they see Christ as our place of strength. God receives glory through some of the most difficult times of

our lives.

One night before a big storm was imminent, my six-year-old son was having a hard time going to sleep. You see, he had overheard the conversation about how bad the winds were going to be. While talking with him and trying to provide comfort, he asked me a question, “Dad, is our house strong enough for the storm?” I immediately thought about this worship song and asked myself, “Is my life built on a foundation strong enough to withstand the storms the enemy will throw at me?”

God has provided the ultimate foundation for our lives. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, we have hope in our eternal Father. Throughout this song, there is a recurring theme, “He won’t fail”. Throughout history and written in Scripture, God has proven Himself to be faithful time and time again. We can put our faith in Him, and he will never fail us. Just like a house built with bricks, concrete, and mortar, on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

He WON’T fail, because He CAN’T fail.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. Through the winds and the rain, we praise you because you are our ultimate comforter and protector. God, we put our trust and faith in You and You alone. You are faithful in every season. Thank you for showing up even in our darkest moments. All the earth will shout your praise, Great are you, Lord. We love and praise you. Amen*

Trust in God

Pastor Brady Howard

The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. (Psalm 28:7 NLT)

A few years ago, a father was heading out to watch his son play baseball. Knowing that the games tend to run long on his way out, he stopped by the garage and grabbed an on folding chair to sit in so he wouldn't have to stand for the entire game. This chair had been there for quite some time, and to be honest, he really couldn't remember where it came from anyway. On his way to the game he hadn't taken into consideration the additional time that traffic might cause.

After arriving at the game, and now running late, he hurriedly made his way to the field, found a spot, put the chair down, and plopped right down only to find himself flat on his back looking up at the sky. You see that old chair had been rotting in the garage for quite some time, and what he was hoping would hold him up and provide relief for the game, now caused embarrassment, increased aggravation, and a little bit of soreness.

We have all been there. We have either seen a chair collapse on someone or it has happened to us. You know, as people we spend roughly 55% of our waking time sitting down. I don't know many people who inspect chairs before they sit in them. They just assume that they will hold them up, put their trust in the seat, and when it doesn't then they feel betrayed.

For followers of Christ, we have *tasted* and *seen the goodness* of God. When we put our *trust* in God for the forgiveness of sins and receive with gladness the free gift of salvation, we have put our *trust* in the *power of God to save* and believe that *His grace is sufficient for all things!* The Psalmist

declares that his strength is from the Lord, and his protection is from the Lord. He exclaims that he will trust in God with his whole heart!

Now surely, the psalmist had known disappointment in his life. Surely the psalmist had felt betrayal. Surely the psalmist had fallen into the snare of sin and temptation. And yet, his heart put its trust in God! What is the psalmist putting his hope in then? Well, it is the character of God! That has been proven through His Word, His Work, and His Son Jesus!

This worship song uses language like this, we have the *blessed assurance* that Jesus is mine, and I belong to Jesus (John 10), the lyric proclaims *that all is at rest*, what is at rest? Our heart is at rest - rather it is at perfect peace in Christ. Hebrews 6 tells us that Christ is the anchor of our soul. Our hope that is tested and true!

Yes, life disappoints us, people fail us, even that old folding chair isn't there for us when we need it. But let us remember that we serve a God who is alive! And by His life we now have life, and life everlasting! So too we join in with the psalmist and proclaim that Christ has filled my heart with.

Friend - He didn't fail you then, and He won't fail you now.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I confess that you alone are worthy of my trust. Forgive me for not fully resting in you. Remind me of Your truth. Remind me of your promises. Fill my heart with the joy and gladness of knowing You and being fully known by You. I worship you with songs of thanksgiving, I trust in You and You alone!*

Worthy of it All

Melissa Bradberry, Angel Goodine, Carley Reed, and Kristen Tumbleston

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” (Revelation 4:9-11)

What makes someone worthy? Is it their works or accomplishments? Is it their character? Is it simply being a good person? Worthy means having merit, value, honor, importance; someone who is deserving. There is only One who is worthy of everything, and it's God. But what makes God worthy? God sent His Son to take our place and pay the price that only He could pay for our sins, and that's just one of the infinite reasons why God is worthy. So, if God is worthy, what is He worthy of? Simply, everything, especially our worship. What God has done for us and continues to do for us should cause us to give Him never-ending praise.

“All the saints and angels bow before Your throne, All the elders cast their crowns before the Lamb of God and sing.” The word “all” is inclusive. Everyone is bowing before the throne. Everyone is casting their crowns before the Lamb. Worship is uniform and unanimous in heaven. Why is everyone worshipping? We worship Him because He is “*worthy of it all.*” He “*deserves the glory.*”

“For from You are all things,” God created everything for His glory, and by His grace, He gives us everything we need. *“To You are all things.”* He will give us our crowns in Heaven, and we have the honor of casting them back at his feet in worship to Him.

God is so deserving of our praise to Him, but how often should we worship Him? “*Day and night, night and day, let incense arise.*” In Exodus 30:7-8, Aaron is commanded to burn fragrant incense before the Lord in the morning and in the evening. The rising of smoke symbolizes a person’s prayers rising to God. In Revelation 4:8, John writes that these same living creatures never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” If there are infinite reasons to worship God and if these living creatures can’t stop praising Him, then what is holding us back in our worship to God? If saints, angels, and elders are praising God, then what is our excuse? Our prayers, praises, and worship to Him should never cease.

God is worthy of all our praise; He’s deserving of us giving Him our lives and honoring Him because He created us for His glory. God was worthy in the past just like He is worthy now. We need to live like our King is risen and remember that every promise He makes will come true. We need to give God our worship because He alone deserves it. We need to choose to say, “*You are Worthy*” despite our situations or circumstances. How we worship here on earth is only a foretaste of what is to come in eternity!

Prayer: *Lord, You are worthy of all praise and glory. Forgive us for not worshipping You in the way You deserve and help us to cast off anything that is hindering our worship to You. Help us to keep our hearts and minds focused solely on you. We want to rejoice in your goodness and righteousness daily and overflow with praise for what you have done for us on the cross. We love and adore you. Amen.*

I Worship You Almighty God

Brett Hill

Come, let's worship and bow down, let's kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)

The song "I Worship You, Almighty God" invites us into a deep, sincere expression of respect and admiration. As we sing these words, we align our hearts with the reality of who God is in our lives. This devotion seeks to discover the profound topics inside these lyrics and the way they can rework worship in our everyday lives.

First we are reminded of God's omnipotence. When we claim, "I worship You, Almighty God," we are acknowledging his hand over all creation. Psalm 95 encourages us to come to God with songs and thanksgiving. In a world full of chaos and uncertainty, remembering God's sovereignty affords us peace and assurance.

The lyrics additionally emphasize the personal relationship we have with God. "There is none like you" speaks to the uniqueness of our God. In society where we are given so many fake idols and distractions, we are reminded that only God is worthy of our worship. As we reflect on His character, we find that His love, mercy, and faithfulness stand unmatched.

Worship is greater than just singing; it is a response to who God is and what He has done. In Isaiah 40:28-31, we are reminded that God offers energy to the weary and increases the strength of the vulnerable. Our worship acknowledges our want for Him, inviting His presence into our lives. When we sing, we proclaim our dependence on His strength and our desire for His guidance.

As we worship, we cultivate a mindset of gratitude. The act of

remembering God's past faithfulness inspires us to trust Him in the present and future. Reflect on the moments in your life where God has shown up, whether through answered prayers, moments of comfort, or unexpected blessings. Let these memories fuel your worship.

Throughout the day, remember that you were created to worship. Let the statement "I Worship You, Almighty God" resonate in your heart and guide your thoughts and actions. In every moment seek to honor the One who is truly worthy and embrace the transformative power of worship in your life.

Prayer: *God, I come before You with a heart full of praise. Thank You for Your unfailing love and for being my constant refuge. When I sing, "I worship You," let it be a true reflection of my heart's desire to honor You in every aspect of my life. Help me to recognize Your presence in my daily routines and respond with gratitude and worship. May my life be a living testimony of Your grace and power. Amen.*

I Speak Jesus / What A Beautiful Name

Pastor Warren Green

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

...but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:23)

But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" (Romans 10:15)

Focus: The name of Jesus and the power of His gospel are sufficient for all things, and His name is beautiful!

The medley of I Speak Jesus and What a Beautiful Name carry a common theme - the name of Jesus. Through the ebbs and flows of these two powerful songs, the name of Jesus is described as providing peace, holding hope, giving freedom, offering healing, breathing life, breaking strongholds, gleaming through the shadows, burning like a fire, releasing the captive, it's beautiful, it's wonderful, it's powerful, and it's worthy to be proclaimed with passion from every place on earth!

The question is not what do these two songs teach about the name of Jesus, but what do YOU believe about the name of Jesus. Truthfully, Jesus' name is all those things and so much more, but if my trust falls onto the things of this world instead of resting in Jesus' name, then His Name has no power in my life.

Our ultimate guide to what is true must rest in God's Word and not only in song lyrics. We can trust the Word of God never to lead us astray. These songs find their basis in the verses listed above, as well as Acts 4:12,

Isaiah 9:6, and others. Scripture leads us to the gospel being proclaimed to everyone - no matter their ethnicity, language, social class, or moral code. The good news (gospel) is built in only one name - JESUS. Moving from death to life, blind to sight, deaf to hearing, lame to walking, lost to found, and hopeless to filled with hope only happens through the person of Jesus and in the name of Jesus. Romans 10:9-10 also directs us to His name - believe that He is the Son of God, He died for your sins, and He rose again defeating death, hell, and the grave - AND confess with your mouth that His name is above every name and is the only one with the power to save. The child-like belief brings righteousness, and the confession with my mouth brings salvation.

You may have listened to thousands of worship songs, or this might be your first. Either way, my question for you today is simple. Do you believe that the name of Jesus has the power to rescue, redeem, transform, and bring you from death to life? If your answer is yes, then join me in the worship of the only one whose name is worthy to be spoken over every part of your life and is the most beautiful name ever spoken by mankind. If you don't believe that His Name has this power, then evaluate all your attempts to mend your life through everything else imaginable. You will find, like everyone else who's ever gone searching for meaning and purpose in this life, that NOTHING else compares to the matchless name of Jesus. He is what you've been searching for.

Prayer: *Jesus, I surrender to Your Name that is above every name! I agree today to speak JESUS over every situation, trial, joy, and moment in my life. Your Name is beautiful, wonderful, powerful, and mighty to save! Help me to cling with all I have to nothing except You! In the matchless name of Jesus, amen!*

It is Well

Angela Skelton

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" Most glad, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Life can be a series of ups and downs. There are days of joy and days of sorrow and sometimes those days coexist together. Life can be difficult, and we know there is so much that we deal with on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. If it seems you are doing well you know someone else struggling. Someone once said, "If you aren't in a storm, you are coming out of one or about to be in one." If you take a moment to look not only at yourself but those around you, you can see that statement is pretty true.

Biblically, the meaning of 'It is well,' is not because of my strength but because of God's that I can say "It is well." It isn't well because things work out the way we expect or hope but because God works things for our good.

When we face struggle, distress, or difficulties ,it's hard to see through them and have your soul say 'It is well.' How can things be well with a loss of a job, a loss of a child or parent, an unexpected diagnosis, a financial hardship, or fill-in-the-blank? "When sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot thou has taught me to say, It is well with my soul."

Christ humbled himself, became man, and died for you and I. God the Father knew what it was like to suffer when He had to turn his back on His Son when Christ took on our sin. Christ suffered as He paid the

ultimate sacrifice for you and me. Why? Because that's how much He loves us. "My sin, not in part, but the whole - is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more." Christ knew suffering, God the Father knew suffering, and you and I will know suffering. But just as Christ rose from the dead we see our suffering won't last.

Will we suffer? Yes. Will joy come in the morning? Yes! Nothing we face can take Christ and how He loves us away. "And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight." We know that one day all will be made right and we will be able to stand before the one who graciously gave His life for us just because He loved us and we will be able to worship Him.

Personally, I have wrestled with saying 'It is well with my soul.' I have known suffering with losing my mom and my brother and many family and friends but, yes, I can say "It is well with my soul." Has it been easy? No. How can I say that? Because I know that God's grace is sufficient for me. When I can't go on, He is holding me just like He is holding you. Regardless of what happens here, we will spend eternity with God who loved us so much He gave His life for us, and gave us a way to spend eternity with Him and a promise that we will see those loved ones again.

Prayer: *Father, thank you that even in our difficult circumstances we can lean into your grace that is sufficient when we aren't. Thank you that we know that troubles pass and that we will be able to spend eternity with you forever. Allow us to see your goodness in our trials and praise you for the storm. Amen.*

Midnight Cry

Pastor Brady Howard

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matthew 24:42-44)

But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
(Matthew 25:6)

Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:51-56)

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:2)

All of creation longs for the return of its Savior¹.

In ages past God spoke into the darkness and created life out of nothing. By His very breath, the power of His word, and the glorious wisdom of His thought, He created all things. We read from His word that all things

1 Romans 8:22-23

that have come into existence by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus².

When Adam & Eve fell into sin in the garden of Eden all of mankind fell into the corruption of sin, yet sin didn't stop just with mankind, all of creation fell into corruption, and even now all of creation longs for redemption.

Praise God for His grace, and His mercy, He has promised and provided redemption for all things. In the garden God promised He would forever crush sin!

We live between the first coming of Christ and His second glorious return! We see the command from Christ, that we are to be looking, and longing for His return as a bride awaiting the return of her bridegroom.

My friend, do you feel that longing? Do you despair in the waiting? Does it feel like His coming delays? All of these feelings, and all of these emotions must be met with the joy of His promises.

Some of our loved ones have already been called home in heaven, and now are at His side awaiting the Father to send His Son. Others are here, longing for their Savior, and yet there are still others who have not come into the shepherd's fold. Each day that passes is another day a lost sheep to be found.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, in our waiting, and in our longing meet us here God with the joy of your return. Fill us with gladness, sustain our hearts, and glorify yourself through us as we proclaim the good news of the love of Christ. For we are your children, and we long to be with you O God!*

Come Jesus Come

Kalie Toumbleston

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

Some days are just hard. We look at the pain and suffering in the world around us, and at times our own circumstances threaten to overwhelm us. It's easy to think, it shouldn't be this way. And you would be right. It shouldn't be this way, but we live in a fallen world. Sin, shame, war, and chains seem to reign. There are times when this darkness can be heavy, and you may feel like you're going to break.

However, as believers in Jesus Christ, we are holding on to a hope that won't ever fade or fail. This is the good news of the gospel! In His first coming to Earth, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made a way for broken and sinful people to have relationship with our holy and perfect God. We now eagerly await His second coming, which will culminate in the day when there will be no war, and no chains. There will be a day when He will heal every hurt and right every wrong. On that day, all will believe in the power of His name!

Revelation tells us that on this glorious day, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain." (Rev. 21:4)

As we wait expectantly, let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on our Savior. One day, we will see Him face to face. We also know that every day the Lord tarries is another opportunity for us to spread the hope of the gospel, and shine as lights in this dark world.

This world will not feel like home, and it shouldn't. Scripture tells us in 1 Peter 2 that we are "foreigners and strangers" in this world.

As ambassadors for Christ, we are to “keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God on the day of visitation” (v. 12). Are we doing everything we can to bring people to the living water so they can experience being washed by rivers of grace?

May we all be found ready on the day of His return! "He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.” (Rev. 22:20-21)

Prayer: *Father, thank You for the sure and steadfast hope we have in You. Strengthen us when life is dark and days are hard. In those moments, help us to set our minds on things that are above. Remind us of what truly matters. Give us a brokenness for the lost world around us, and a boldness to proclaim the hope found only in You. Come, Jesus, come. Amen.*

