



A PLACE TO BELONG
and *Grow*

Welcome
to your home church!



The Value of Suffering

James 1:2-4

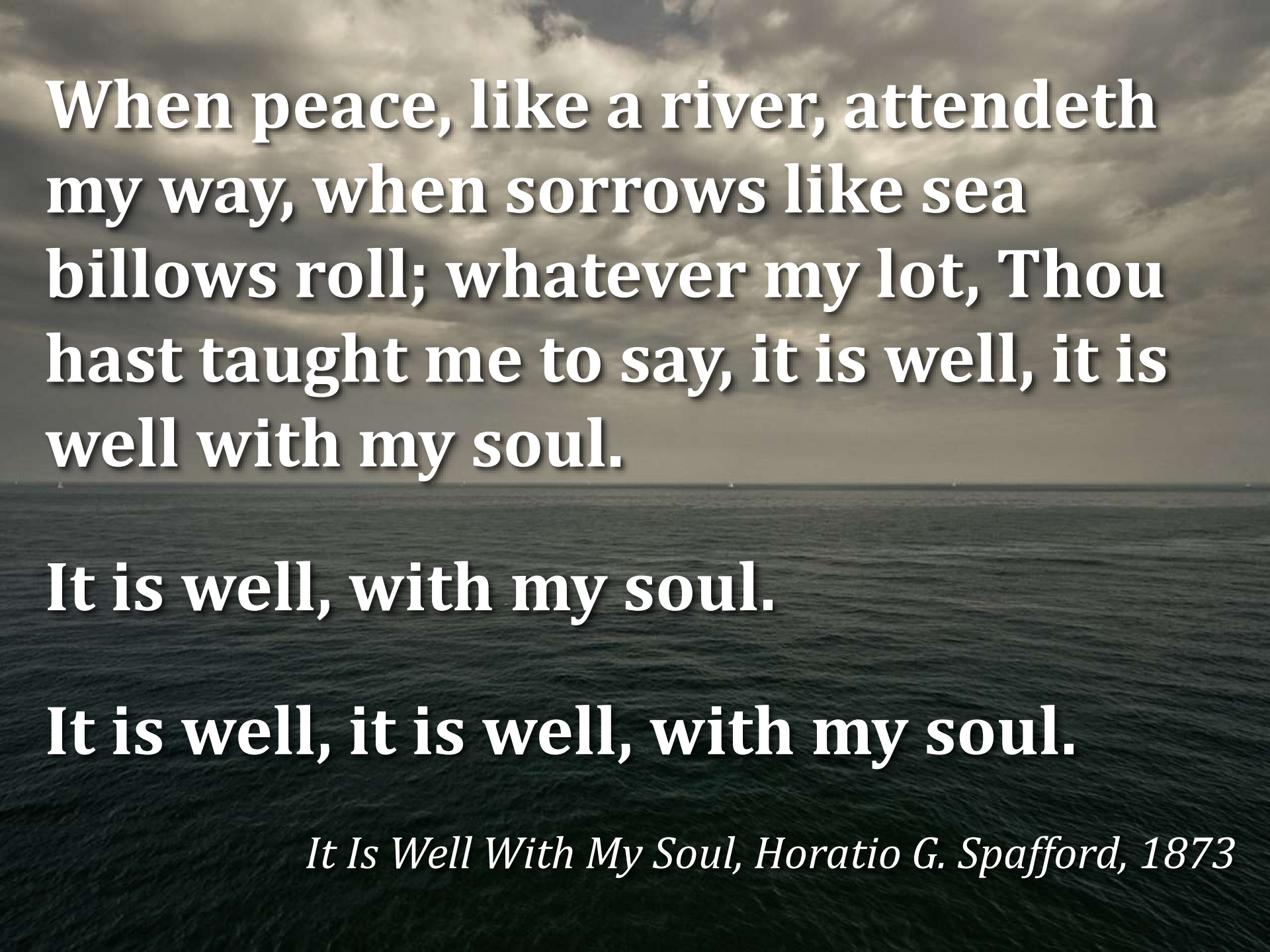












When peace, like a river, attendeth
my way, when sorrows like sea
billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou
hast taught me to say, it is well, it is
well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul.

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

It Is Well With My Soul, Horatio G. Spafford, 1873



James 1:2-4

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The Tension of Suffering:

- **On one hand we are not happy about having to go through it**
- **On the other hand we wouldn't trade who we are because of it**



Steadfastness:

The capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances.

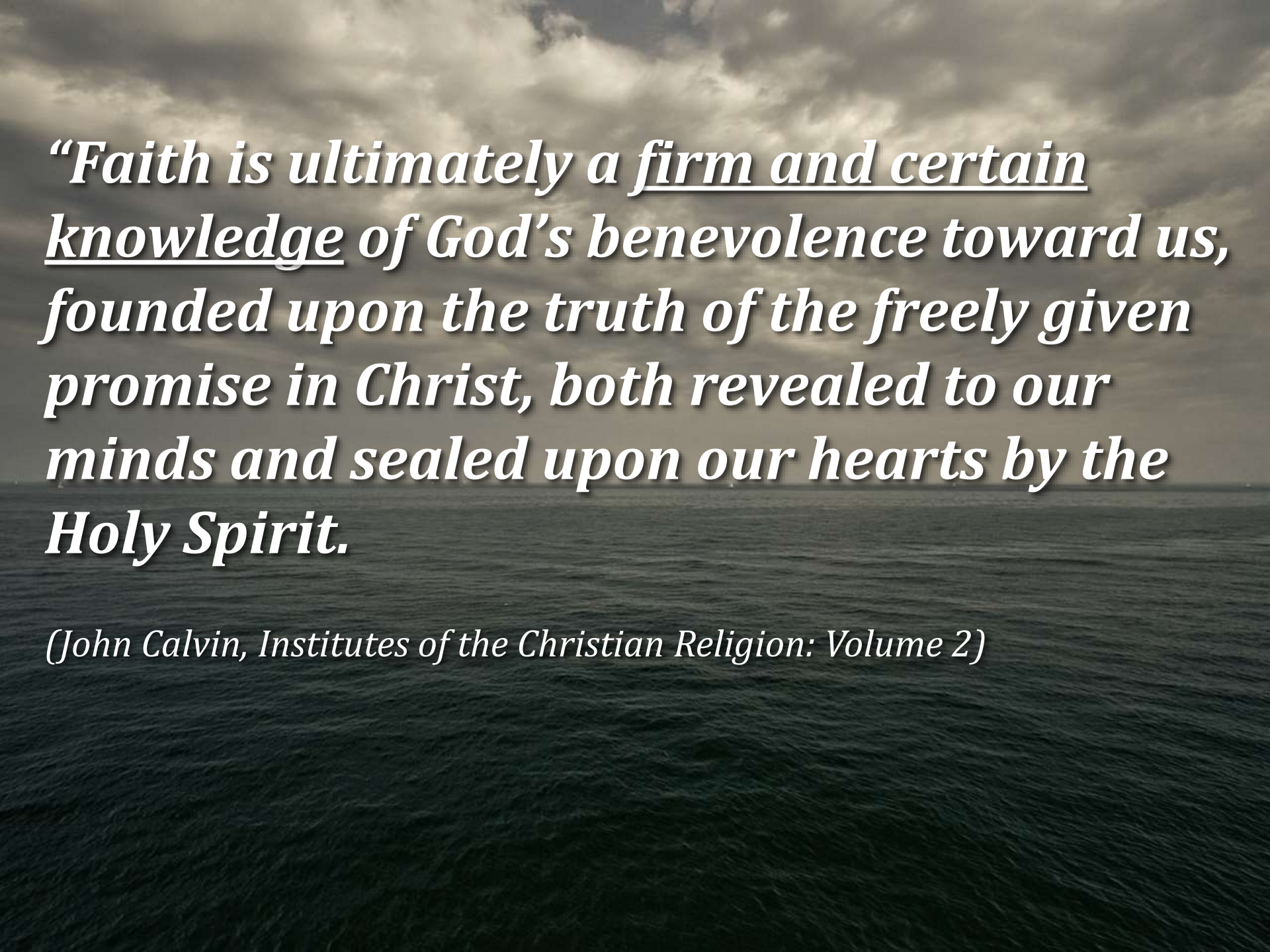
(Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains, Louw & Nida)

The Effects of Suffering:

- Suffering gives us perspective
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 – *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

The Effects of Suffering:

- Suffering helps us grow in Christ
 - Philippians 3:8 – *Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.*



“Faith is ultimately a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

(John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion: Volume 2)

The Effects of Suffering:

- Suffering builds our character
 - Romans 5:3-5– *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Character:

“The characteristic of a man who is unswerved in his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.”

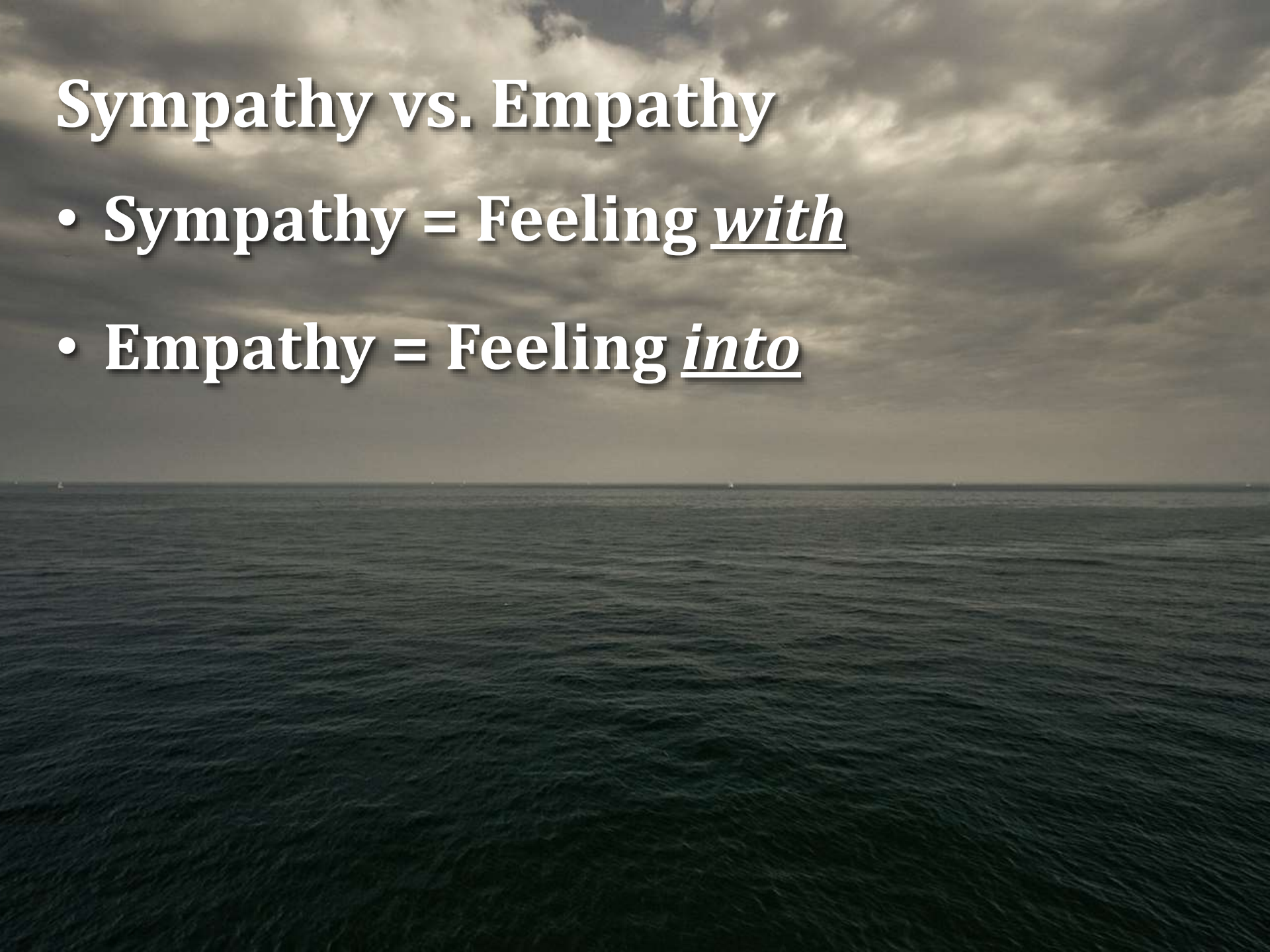
(Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

The Effects of Suffering:

- Suffering gives us greater compassion for each other
 - Romans 12:15– *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep*

Sympathy vs. Empathy

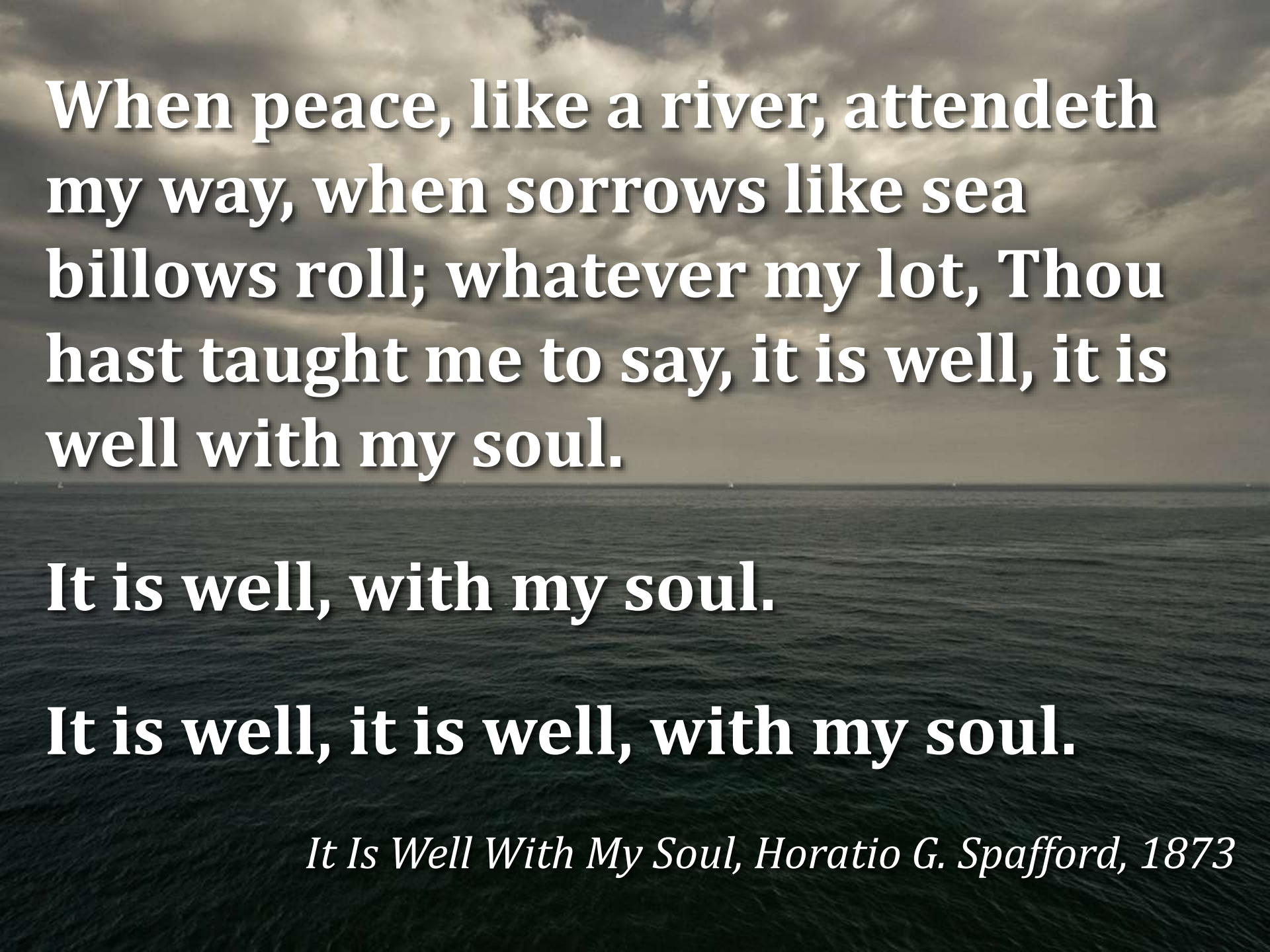
- Sympathy = Feeling with
- Empathy = Feeling into











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