

This morning as Lisa and I stirred around in the parsonage we we're listening to worship videos on YouTube. A favorite for many years, Mercy Me, came on. Bart Millard was sharing his testimony and how he came to write the song "Even If."

His kids woke him up early – "not cool." And, I thought of all those at home experiencing an extended "vacation" with schools closed. May God bless you with patience and creativity.

He's so honest about being a stage presence in a Christian world that wants its leaders to have it all together – to "walk around hovering 2 inches off the ground saying: 'God is good.'" And, I thought of all the pastors and Christian leaders figuring out how to minister in this COVID-19 altered world. May God bless us with humility and faith.

His son Sam was diagnosed with type-1 diabetes when he was two. At the time Bart wrote "Even If" his son was fifteen. And, I thought of all those with chronic illnesses who have good days and bad days – days when denial is a welcome relief – and who know God can but hasn't healed them. May God bless us with hope and a trust in His plan for our life.

Bart shared that sometimes life just sucks and "to act as if it doesn't is to waste everybody's time." And, I thought of all the pious puppets that quiver inside a shallow faith that denies a reality that includes pain and loss and doubt and fear – the very world Christ came to save. May God bless us with a strong faith found in our vulnerability and weakness.

In his song "Even If" Bart writes: "I know You're able and I know You can; Save through the fire with Your mighty hand; But even if You don't; My hope is You alone. They say it only takes a little faith; To move a mountain; Well good thing; A little faith is all I have, right now."

If you don't know or haven't heard the song in a while visit YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHosmHnOrb8>

May God fill you with a hope beyond reason; with a reason based on God's revealed Word; and with a heart that is broken for the things that break God's heart. Be kind and compassionate. Be the voice of hope everywhere and the hands and feet of Christ where you can.