



Satisfied



"All my life long I had panted
for a draught from some clear spring,
that I hoped would quench the burning
of the thirst I felt within.

"Feeding on the husks around me,
till my strength was almost gone,
longed my soul for something better,
only still to hunger on.

"Poor I was, and sought for riches,
something that would satisfy,
but the dust I gathered 'round me
only mocked my soul's sad cry.

"Well of water, ever springing,
bread of life so rich and free,
untold wealth that never faileth,
my Redeemer is to me.

"Hallelujah! I have found Him,
whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings,
through His blood I now am saved."

"I have learned, in whatever state I am, in this to be content." - Philippians 4:11

"Godliness with contentment is great gain." - 1 Timothy 6:6

"Let your manner of life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have; for He has said, 'I will never leave you, nor forsake you'." - Hebrews 13:5

"Everything about which we are tempted to complain may be the very instrument whereby the Potter intends to shape His clay into the image of His Son ..." - Elisabeth Elliot

"To be content with little is hard; to be content with much is impossible." - Unknown

"Satisfied," was another favorite hymn of George Beverly Shea. The words were written by a godly woman named Clara Tear Williams, and the message of her text spoke to his heart.

When George was only 8 years old, he took a walk with his Dad, and they happened to meet Clara Williams. His father later explained, with reverence in his voice, that this woman wrote hymns. When they returned home, George asked his mother about her, and she smiled as she headed to the piano to find a hymnal that contained one of Clara's hymns - "Satisfied." He memorized the words and began to sing it as a solo in his teen years. George came to know the same satisfaction and contentment in Christ that Clara Williams had found.

Notice the reference to the Prodigal Son in the second verse. This son truly believed that there was so much more to be found beyond the confines of his father's home. But he ended up squandering his inheritance on sinful activities, which landed him in a pigsty, longing to feed on the husks just to sustain himself. God had brought this young man to the end of himself, so that he decided to return to his father and beg to be one of his servants. He had not found contentment in all of those forbidden areas, finally realizing how worthless they were.

Paul points out in Philippians 4:12 that it can be just as difficult to handle riches as it is to cope with poverty. He explains it this way: "I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."

And what was Paul's secret? He reveals it in verse 13, saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Paul had strength to withstand "all things" - both hardships and prosperity - in this material world, through the One who infused him with His strength to endure. He was imprisoned in Nero's dungeon when he wrote that he had learned the secret of contentment in any situation, because Jesus was with him through it all.

So we see that contentment in this life does not depend upon material possessions or ideal circumstances. We must guard ourselves from thinking our lives would be better, "If only..." Contentment is an attitude that must be learned and developed, because it is foreign to our human behavior. But as we give God our praise each day from thankful hearts, we will see the change of attitude that the Spirit wants to create in us, and the strength to face whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. So be content in Him today and consider how you may be a blessing to someone else who needs encouragement in the Lord.