

Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

Upon awaking and considering what lies in the day ahead, I found comfort in a daily routine that I employ to start the day. And although the word “routine” can imply boredom to some, to me it is a great joy. After 63 years of life I guess that I have had enough excitement and am ready to enjoy seasons of life less tumultuous than days of my youth. I am content to live day by day under the faithful hand of my Creator. The Israelites went through a great sea of deliverance and the same God who sustained and delivered them will deliver me! Because as it is written, ***“His mercy endures forever.”***

“To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever; And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever; (Psalms 136:13-14 NKJV) “And made Israel to pass through the midst of it.” HE gave the people courage to follow the predestined track through the yawning abyss, which might well have terrified a veteran host. It needed no little generalship to conduct so vast and motley a company along a way so novel and apparently so dangerous. He made them to pass, by the untrodden road; he led them down into the deep and up again on the further shore in perfect order, keeping their enemies back by the thick darkness of the cloudy pillar. Herein is the glory of God set forth, as all his people see it in their own deliverance from sin. **By faith we also give up all reliance upon works and trust ourselves to pass by a way which we have not known, even by the way of reliance upon the atoning blood: thus are we effectually sundered from the Egypt of our former estate, and our sins themselves are drowned.** The people marched dry shod through the heart of the sea. Hallelujah!

Spurgeon, C. H. (2009). The treasury of David, Volume 6: Psalms 120-150 (208–209). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible

Whatever the day holds I will be content with my lot in life and trust God for the outcome. And like the Apostle Paul whose life certainly was anything but boring I will focus on godliness and do so with contentment.

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” (1 Timothy 6:6-8 NKJV)

I came across the following devotional reading by Miles Stanford and was encouraged in a similar line of thinking, again encouraging contentment;

7-1. Adults Only!

“I have learned, in whatever state I am, in this to be content” (Phil. 4:11).

All we have to do is love the Lord Jesus—that will take us through all the fire necessary to conform us to His image.

“Hopes have precarious life;

They are oft blighted, withered, snapped sheer off

In vigorous youth, and turned to rottenness;

But faithfulness can feed on suffering,

And knows no disappointment.”

“Adam might defy the will of God, Elijah might doubt it, but John would glory in it—even on Patmos. **This is the way of certain triumph; to accept God’s will, however painful it may be, and to trust Him in the certain faith that His will must triumph in the end. John stood his ground, maintaining his testimony in the face of every foe, and as a consequence has exercised a mighty ministry of life down through the centuries.**” -T. A-S.

“Much depends on the way great eras of our life are entered on. The germ of faith will outlive the sternest winds and roughest seas. We enter on them enthusiastically or stoically. Nature or disposition may have much to do with our external manner, but it is faith in our Father which stands the wear of years, and the sorrows of life.”

“One does not feel the pain of the Cross when his mind is on heavenly things.”

“Thou, therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3).

Stanford, M. J. (2002). Complete Works of Miles J. Stanford. Galaxie Software.

*Hannah Whitall Smith sums it up very well in the following quote, “I cannot write about anything but the life of faith, for I do not know of any other. I am sure the Lord has a meaning in leading me, as He is, in the way of faith. Perhaps it is that I may teach it thoroughly first before I begin to teach the way of manifestations. It is surely needed to be learned by Christians. **And I am content.** If the Lord is better pleased and more honored by my walk of faith, it satisfies me, and I would not ask to have it different. He loves me, and I can leave it all to Him. It doesn’t matter much anyhow how this life is passed; it must end sometime and I can wait. And meanwhile I do find the knowledge of the fact that Jesus is mine and I am His enough to make me happy.*

Smith, H. W., & Dieter, M. E. (1997). The Christian’s secret of a holy life: The unpublished personal writings of Hannah Whitall Smith. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

As I face the day ahead, I am unsure of exactly what it holds. But I am sure of Who holds it and I think I will allow Him to hold me as well!

Jim Freed