

*"Let your conversation (behavior) **Be Without Covetousness; And Be Content** with such things as ye have: for [God] hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' So that we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.'" Hebrews 13:5-6 KJV*



The contented believer has learned not to depend on self, but on God. Christ gives us all that we are and have. Jesus said, *"Without me ye can do nothing."* We so often take physical ability for granted. The ability to stand and walk unaided is rarely thought of as a gift from God until it's lost, but then, who do we pray to for its return? We roll out of bed each day without considering the smallest ability to move is precious; often with a grumbling soul at having to rise. To be able to chew and swallow, to be able to brush your hair and teeth, to feed yourself, and to bath yourself are all everyday abilities for which we neglect to give God thanks. Soundness of mind is not in the slightest secondary to soundness of body. In fact, it is more important, because it allows us intimate fellowship with our Father in Heaven: All else is secondary. *"Every Good Gift and every Perfect Gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* To be content, we must acknowledge the fact everything that comes into our life is from the Loving Hand of Father and meant for our good and transformation into the Image of Jesus Christ, the Son; that is, without flaw. I can endure trials calmly knowing that nothing is out of Father's control. Not even death is an obstacle. Rather, it is a promotion into the presence of God! My needs will be met and my life will be full if I, by simple faith, walk in trusting obedience to Father's instructions. *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* If I consistently obey the *"still small Voice"* of God's Word in thought, I will lead a life of *"good success."* There will be none, including myself, that can claim authorship for my prosperity, because *"the Lord is my helper"* and no one else! If I have trial and tribulation, it is because I have either disobeyed or Father has allowed it to strengthen and teach me. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Christ is THE WORD and obedience to THE WORD is what enables me! I CAN choose to do it or not, *"Great Peace have they which LOVE THY LAW (God's Word) and NOTHING shall offend them."* If the disciples had trusted Christ in the boat instead of their own human effort, the storm would have been of little consequence! Trusting God allows me peace in the tempests of life!

Though minions from hell may mock and taunt,
The trials of life will not me daunt,
When doubt and despair my thoughts do haunt,
The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. –CGP

"When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will keep singing as the days go by. When you look at others with their lands and gold, think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold; count your many blessings wealth can never buy, your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. So, amid the conflict whether great or small, do not be discouraged, God is over all; count your many blessings, angels will attend, help and comfort give you to your journey's end." –Johnson Oatman, Jr.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Let no man say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God': for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every Good Gift and every Perfect Gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:12-17 KJV