

# A Window For Women

God's Word and Norma's Notes

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*Volume 2, Issue 1*

## **Cultivating Contentment in Christ**

*Parts 1 & 2*

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### **Part 1**

Undoubtedly there were varied reactions to the four-part series of **A Window for Women** in which we considered “The Wealth of God’s Word.” For some it was, “I already dig daily and find priceless nuggets that I apply so that I may grow in the grace and knowledge of God.” I trust others were challenged to a new discipline of a daily “watch” with God.

This series will be entitled **Cultivating Contentment in Christ**.

Perhaps heart-stretching, heart-rending, heartbreaking or heart-searching things have happened to you in the past year. Your responses and needs have been many. In some cases, you have experienced God’s gracious gift of victory. In other cases, you are still seeking relief. I trust these carefully and prayerfully chosen thoughts will give relief, direction, release and a glorious experience as you walk and talk with your Lord, and as you allow Him to direct you by His Word and by His Holy Spirit.

We bond with David as we read the Psalms. At times he was on the mountaintop and at times he was very discontented. At other times he was cultivating contentment in a big way: “My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise” (Ps. 57:7). As we read the verse in its context, we find David in deep distress, but he went to the right resource – his God! Not his friend’s ear, not a computer, not a counselor, not a “how-to” book. He went to his God right away!

At the same time, we must beware lest we allow access to **formidable foes** of a contented heart – foes such as selfishness, thanklessness, murmuring, stress, sin, fear, selfishness, television, websites, Facebook, hobbies, wantonness, etc.

Aren't you thankful that we can approach our **faithful Father** who helps us take steps toward contentment? Our steps may be faltering; nonetheless, He will carry us through and build us up. What are some of those steps? They are focusing, praying, disciplining, calling, casting and trusting. Are you ready?

We do not demand contentment as if we have a right to expect it. We ask it as a mercy from our heavenly Father who knows our need.

A woman who is sure of God will have contentment. Thus, we become useful channels of blessing. We become manifestations of God's faithfulness. We become examples to someone else. We can be friends who inspire someone to move closer to God.

## Part 2

I am thinking about, pursuing and practicing the Word of God to bring to you these meditations on contentment. Each morning my husband, Jack, leads me to a devotional thought for the day. We have been greatly blessed and stretched by the *Daily Remembrancer*, a book first published in the 1800's by Pastor James Smith. He wanted the people of his parish to daily "think on these things," so he produced these reminders in book form for their use. The book has been updated and revised by editor Dr. S. H. Tow of Singapore. Each page offers a thought-provoking message that is not to be ignored.

As I read, study, ponder and pray about this series on contentment, certain treatises jump out at me that I just have to share. Page 488 of the above-mentioned book is one of those messages which so eloquently states what I would like to direct you to. I have read and reread it several times. It is based on Job 5:8 and follows:

“‘UNTO GOD WOULD I COMMIT MY CAUSE.’ There is no sounder advice than this. It is the counsel of a real friend. It is much better than seeking unto men, or poring over troubles, or indulging the imagination, or giving way to fears. Troubles generally look worst in the distance: they are seldom found to be as bad as they appeared to be. My friend, I know not what may be your case, but if I were in perplexity, I would seek unto God for wisdom. If I were in sorrow, I would seek unto God for comfort. If I were in weakness, I would seek unto God for strength. If I were under guilt, I would seek under God for pardon. If I were in doubt and fear, I would seek unto God for confidence and a sense of His favor. If I were under the power of unbelief, I would seek unto God for faith. If I were harassed by Satan, I would seek unto God to lift up a standard against him. If I were afraid of falling, I would seek unto God to uphold me with the right hand of His righteousness. If I were fearful of death, I would seek unto God to turn the shadow of death into the sunshine of God's morning. Whatever you want, seek it of God. Whatever you fear, carry it to God. Whatever troubles you, lay it before God. You cannot seek Him in vain, or without profit.”

What more can I add? Just a few thoughts from Scripture should be helpful. When discontentment comes to our mind, heart or emotions, our stabilizing source is the Word of our Father God, who knows all about it even before we talk to Him about it.

Let's take a look:

“Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved” (Ps. 55:22). God has promised, dear believing friend. Talk your heart out to Him. He longs for you to do that. He groans for you to do that.

“For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...” and “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:11, 13). My search helped me to understand and appreciate the Greek meaning of the word “strengthen.” It means “to put power in.” Because we are believers in Christ, He infuses us with His strength and sustains us until He sends provision.

This reminds me of the song lyrics, “I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.” I’ll leave you with this last benediction from Scripture: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

*To Be Continued...*

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