



CONTENTMENT

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT



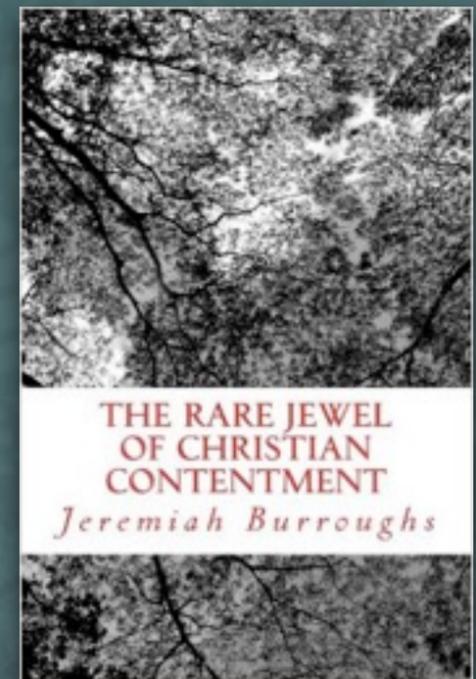
Philippians 4:11-13
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I. It Is Learned

Contentment in every condition is great art, a spiritual mystery. It is to be learned and to be learned as a mystery. And so [Paul] affirms, "I know both how to be abased (humbled) and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed." The word that is translated instructed is derived from the word that signifies "mystery". It is just as if he said, "I have learned the mystery of this business." Contentment is to be learned as a great mystery.

Jeremiah Burroughs *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*



The apostle [Paul], did not say, "I have received the baptism of the Spirit, and there for contentment is mine"... It is something he learned in the school of Christian experience.

Arthur Pink



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I. It Is Learned

A. Intentionality



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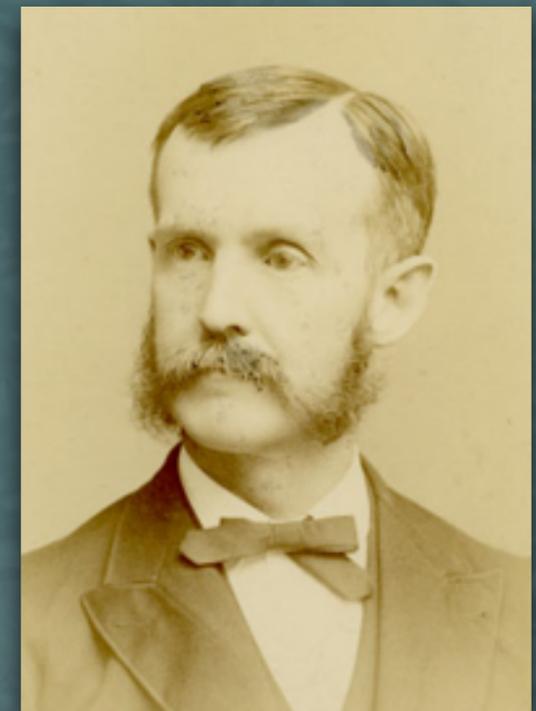
CONTENTMENT

I. It Is Learned

- A. Intentionality
- B. Experiences
- C. Submission to Christ
 - Presence of God
 - Unavoidable Troubles

Discontent never made a tough path smoother, a heavy burden lighter, a bitter cup less bitter, a dark way brighter, a sore sorrow less sore. It only makes it worse. One who accepts with patience that which he cannot change- has learned one secret of victorious living.

J.R. Miller



CONTENTMENT

II. It Is A Secret

A. Inner Contentment

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move.



2 Corinthians 11:23-28

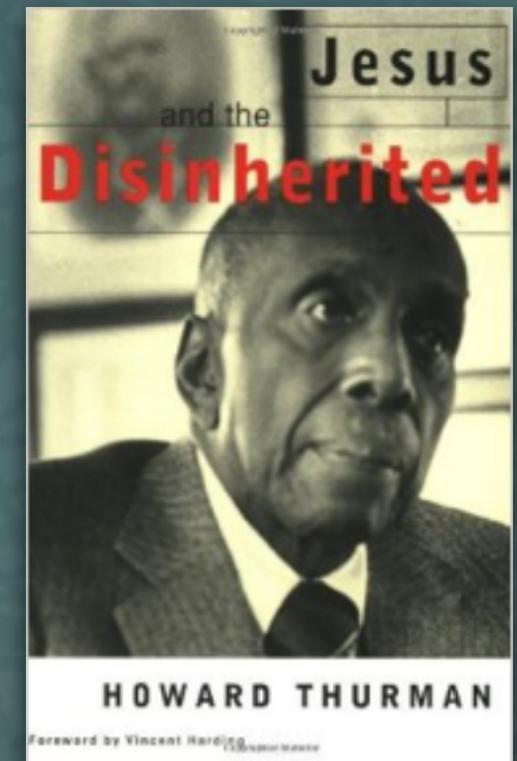
I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.



2 Corinthians 11:23-28

He [Jesus] recognized with authentic realism that anyone who permits another (person or circumstance) to determine the quality of his inner life gives into the hands of the other the keys to his destiny.

Howard Thurman *Jesus and the Disinherited*



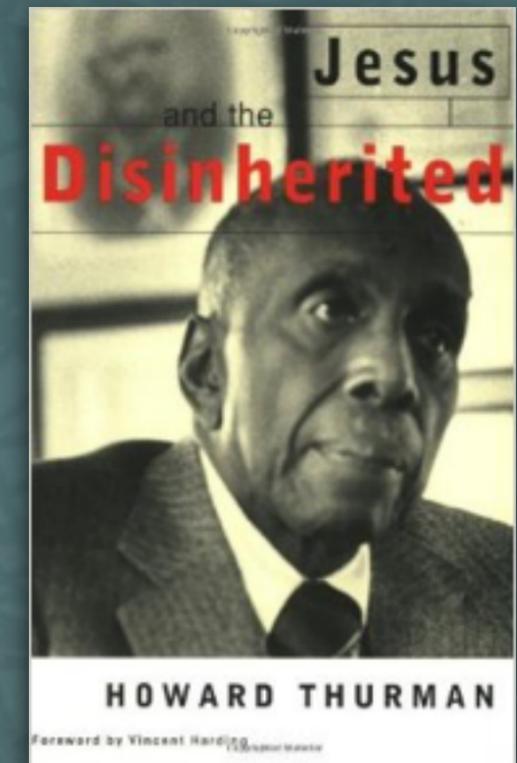
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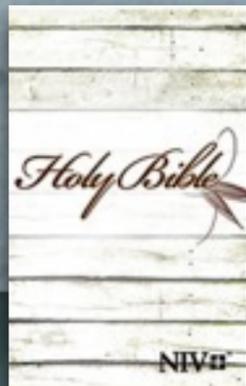
- A. Inner Contentment
- B. Submission to Christ
 - All things bow to our relationship to Christ

The core of the analysis of Jesus is that man is a child of God, the God of life that sustains all of nature and guarantees all the intricacies of the life-process itself. Jesus suggests that it is quite unreasonable to assume that God, whose creative activity is expressed even in such details as the hairs of a man's head, would exclude from his concern the life, the vital spirit, of the man himself. This idea- that God is mindful of the individual- is of tremendous import in dealing with fear as a disease.

Howard Thurman *Jesus and the Disinherited*



“Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.”



Hebrew 13:5

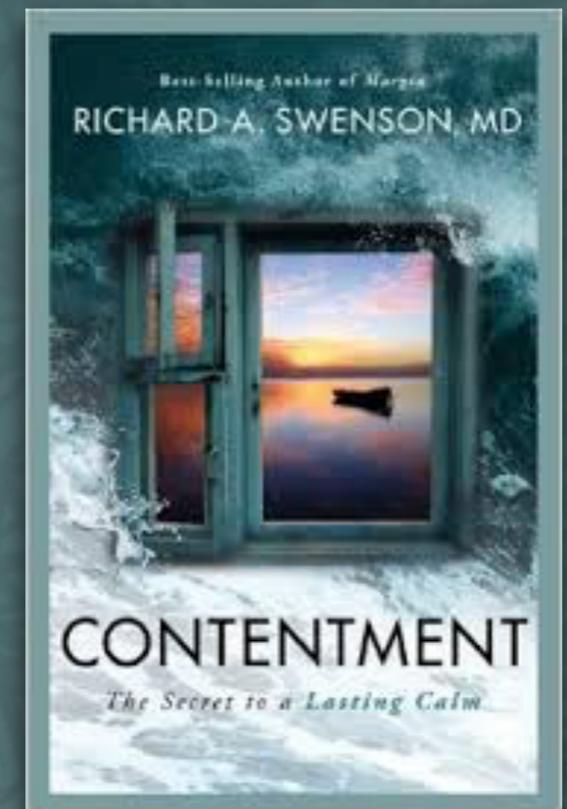
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II. It Is A Secret

- A. Inner Contentment
- B. Submission to Christ
 - All things bow to our relationship to Christ
 - Providence over Preference

Contentment is our glad submission
wrapped up in God's providence.

Richard Swenson *Contentment*



CONTENTMENT

II. It Is A Secret

- A. Inner Contentment
- B. Submission to Christ
 - All things bow to our relationship to Christ
 - Providence over Preference
 - Denying Ourselves