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KEY WORDS

What Does it Mean to Experience Peace and Contentment? (Part 1 of the “Differences between Peace, Pain and Distraction”)

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are just around the corner again. The time of thanksgiving and remembering the birth of God’s Son seems like the perfect time to encourage all of us to regularly examine our sense of contentment and peace. Experiencing peace and contentment during trials on a *consistent* basis is only possible by virtue of our relationship with God through Christ and by the gift of the personal guidance God’s Spirit offers us during each trial! Thank You Lord for Your Son and Your Spirit!

Let’s not view ourselves as “OK” with God while we’re being “partially thankful” or “somewhat discontent...” That is new-self denial!

So, it is as these seasons of remembering approach that we start with this article. It is the first of a series that we’ll publish in the next few “Hearts Up” editions. The articles look at some of the dynamics of our hearts and minds that we experience during trials and in between our trials. More specifically, the articles will look at dynamics that we sometimes don’t observe and connect together. Those dynamics deal with contentment and the relationships between peace, pain and distraction. Whenever we recognize these

dynamics in ourselves, let us give God prayers of thanksgiving. When we recognize we are struggling to experience contentment and peace, let us give God prayers of thanksgiving for being able to serve Him in our trials, as well as prayers for courage to do our parts in re-doubling our efforts to hear His guidance and to change for Him!

How can we truly pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7) if we are not fully confident that we know how He wants us to respond to a trial? How can we pray with thanksgiving if we are thankful for certain things yet are harboring discontentment with circumstances that His will has allowed for us? Let’s not view ourselves as OK with God while we’re being “partially thankful” or “somewhat content.” God can see discontentment or disturbance in our hearts. Settling with that kind of “self-examination” is not the standard in Christ to which we are called! That is new-self denial! May we not be living contradiction, but living conviction!

All of us want to be more content in life’s trials, but by their very nature trials disrupt our sense of contentment. If we can better understand how Satan uses the relationships between peace, the pain of discontentment and distraction, then we can be better prepared to observe Satan’s attacks within

us. This, in turn, can help us to identify the changes God is probably speaking to within us during our trials. When we make those changes continually during our trials, then our contentment in Christ increases. If the commandment (from Matthew 22:38) to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind isn't quite enough to help you discover how to experience peace and contentment on a highly consistent basis, then perhaps God might use this series of articles to help you see some of why that might be.

When we worship God, read His written Word, or hear and sing songs of praise to Him, we think of our love for God and the wonderful experiences we can have in Him. However, we still might struggle to experience those very things during trials on a consistent basis. This happens whenever some of Satan's attacks against us are successful. We want to experience contentment and peace more. We want to experience pain and unwanted heart disturbances less. These things require that we learn to let God wean us off of distraction and show us how to participate more in transformation. One way to look at this challenge that comes with following Christ is to say that we must grow in love. Another way to look at it is to say that that we must become skilled spiritual warriors for Christ. **The lesson is: any way we look at life's tough times, we must continually get better at following God's Spirit during our spiritual battles.**

Contentment and Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare is one of God's Keys to understanding life. It represents God the Father and His plans for us. This Key also represents Satan and his efforts to fight with God both in heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12) and within our own personal lives and experiences.



Spiritual
Warfare

Imagine a war taking place in someone's country where they live. That person may not have had anything to do with starting the war or in keeping it going. Think of a child who isn't even old enough to understand what a war is or why it is being fought. Sometimes we react to our spiritual battles like that child, instead of as a skilled spiritual soldier for Christ. When it comes to wars, it doesn't matter that a person doesn't understand the war, doesn't want to participate in it, or doesn't want to see it; that person is still affected by the war because they live in it. In a sense we can say that the person must live his or her life in the "context" of the war. Similarly, spiritual warfare is the "context" in which we live our lives. None of us can avoid spiritual battles. At the same time, just because we're believers doesn't mean we're automatically skilled in participating with God during our battles! This is the reality of spiritual war. An important part of "being disciplined" by God's Spirit involves learning to be trained by Him during spiritual battles!

The spiritual war affects everyone; each person, whether a person believes in God or not. Some people explain our painful life events from more worldly perspectives, losing sight of the spiritual war. However, if we want to experience peace and contentment more in our tough times, then at some point we are going to have to acknowledge the dynamics we experience as a result of spiritual battles. Those dynamics affect our sense of contentment whether that contentment is derived from an understanding of God's direction for us, or whether it is contentment gained by unwittingly embracing the world's perspective during a trial.

Remember, another reality of the spiritual war is that just because we transform the painful disturbances in our hearts to peace in one trial does not mean we are never going to experience another painful disturbance. The concept of experiencing peace does not mean we will never experience anything else but peace! The concept of experiencing God’s peace involves the opportunity to partner with the Lord in a trial to transform our hearts to peace, one trial at a time! That will involve renewing our minds too. So, when Satan attacks us in a future trial, we have to do the same thing again with that trial’s heart disturbance. **Lesson: There is**

no passage in Scripture promising that once we center in the peace of Christ at a given point in time that we will never have to work with Him to do it again!

None of us can avoid spiritual battles... just because we’re believers doesn’t mean we’re automatically skilled in participating with God during them!

“Seeing” (Recognizing) Trials by Noticing When We Aren’t Content

It is important to be able to recognize the spiritual war around us. More specifically, it is absolutely critical that we detect spiritual battles when they involve us personally! One of the most important ways to see our spiritual battles is not with our physical eyes, but with an honest examination of our hearts during trials. The first thing to look for as we continually examine ourselves is our

The first thing to look for as we continually examine ourselves is our contentment and the disruption of our contentment!

contentment and the disruption of our contentment! God designed us to be able to partner with Him to look at our hearts and see whether or not we are actually content at a given moment during a trial. It’s true that we have to figure out what He wants for us. But the second thing to do is to change ourselves so we can adapt to and contently embrace whatever specific guidance He seeks to communicate to us in our hearts! Before we go any further, let’s define *content*. *Content* is defined as, “Not desiring more than what one has; satisfied.”¹

With that dictionary definition in mind, there are a couple Greek words in the New Testament that are translated as *content*, and we will look at some of these. Keep in mind though that while the word *content* isn’t specifically used as often as other key words in the Bible are, many of the Bible’s concepts, lessons, directives, guidance and stories are highly related to contentment. For example, Matthew 7:1-5 talks about refraining from judgment. Sometimes we feel a strong and righteous sense that it is OK in certain circumstances to judge others. Going against that urge in ourselves requires a strong sense of contentment in refraining from judging when God is telling us to refrain from that opportunity! In John 14:1-4, Jesus tells His Disciples that He is leaving. He also tells them not to be troubled or afraid. When God is telling us to embrace things we can’t control or understand, it is contentment that must replace fear and worry. Romans 5:1-5 talks about rejoicing in

our trials. That is a task that is quite difficult to fulfill when our level of contentment with the circumstances of a trial is waning. Our contentment wanes when we want the opportunity to do something to make the trial go away! And as a last brief example, James 1:2-7 talks about joy and perseverance in trials. Experiencing those implies understanding why the trial is useful for us, and it implies being content with doing whatever God wants of us in the trial, regardless of the outcome.

God’s Spirit chose to use a variety of meaningful words in His written Word, the Bible. Again, many of them are closely related to *content* or *contentment*. Many words imply and require a high level of contentment in order for us to apply and experience them during a trial. Examples of such words are peace, joy, endure, perseverance, pleasure (in the sense of being both pleased to do God’s will and being content to experience situations that would normally be considered discomforting), etc.

Let’s get to the business of considering some ways we might examine ourselves in terms of contentment. We could think of contentment in the sense of whether we are content with our lives overall. We could also generalize about our level of contentment with our walk with God. While those observations can be helpful, they don’t exactly bring out the level of self-examination we want to embrace out of pure love for the Lord and out of willingness to change for Him. Let’s challenge ourselves to look at how important it is to skillfully gauge our sense of contentment in a trial. There are a couple important questions to meditate upon during trials.

1. Are we content that we know what the enemy, Satan, is trying to get us to do or not do?
2. Are we content that we know what God wants to change in us during a trial?
3. Are we content that we know how God wants us to respond to the external part of a trial?
4. Are we content to do what God wants of us regardless how the trial may turn out?

The bottom line here is that once we suspect we are in a trial, we need to look inward at our hearts... with honesty! When we can take that initial step with God, asking ourselves the above kinds of questions can help us begin to look for how God is disciplining us to partner with Him concerning how to respond to the trial. When we struggle to answer any of those questions in a trial, the trial is not a simple one spiritually speaking, regardless how common the external circumstances of the trial may seem. Remember, Satan is THE deceiver. **Lesson: noticing trials is a door to asking useful questions; we can ask God questions, but sometimes we need to ask ourselves some too.**

Ungodly Contentment

As we consider those basic introspective questions, let’s remember that there is such a thing as being content for the wrong reasons. We can find contentment in various kinds of distractions. We can find contentment in distracting ourselves with people, things, alone time, getting lost in TV, or immersing ourselves in just about anything that “gets our minds off things.” While distractions can be helpful in moderation, Satan gets us to cling to our favorite distractions as a mechanism to avoid learning from The Counselor, God’s Spirit, to be content!

When in *inappropriate ways* we lean on our distractions or “loves” in life other than God, it can actually feel good! We don’t do it because we don’t like it or because it is uncomfortable to us. This is why we can call that dynamic, “Ungodly Contentment.” Satan enables us to feel this kind of

contentment! Satan makes ungodly contentment feel like peace! This is one reason Satan is also known as THE imitator. The deceptive part of Satan’s version of contentment is that by taking an action he wants, we do feel “better” than we did due to the uncomfortable situation we were facing. The truth is that ungodly contentment comes at the cost of feeling OK about doing something that God may or may not want you to do. It is a cost that we pay for not transforming Satan’s attack; the same attack that God’s Spirit is trying to warn our hearts about in a time of trial. The big problem is that Satan works to keep you from knowing what God actually wants, so when we fulfill ourselves with ungodly contentment, we often don’t even realize we aren’t doing what God wants unless we really know how to examine ourselves. **The lesson is: get good at godly self-examination!**

Contentment versus Opportunistic Living

How do we know when an opportunity is attractive to us only because it is laced with the “feel good” of ungodly contentment? We already looked at a few examples on page 5, and Hebrews 10:32-38 discusses some other examples. Those passages talk about how our zeal for the Lord in the beginning of our relationship with Him can sometimes wane over time especially when we encounter hard-to-solve, difficult battles. It is true that sometimes we may see opportunities to serve the Lord, and perhaps we may even capitalize on following Him in them. However, when we actually take an opportunity to avoid difficult and trying circumstances that may come by standing for God and fulfilling His will for us, then that represents the kind of opportunistic living God doesn’t seek from us!

*How do we know
when an opportunity
is attractive to us
because it is laced with
the “feel good” of
ungodly contentment?*

In Hebrews 10:35, the Holy Spirit through the writer shows us by implication that confidence in handling what God allows to come our way is also related to godly contentment. If we are content to “shrink back” as it says in verse 38, then we lack a demonstration of the confidence we must have in the greater spiritual picture that often only God sees in full! That is ungodly contentment. Honestly though, unless we can transform the concerns and worries we may have when it comes to entering into the more difficult road God often tries to lead us down, then our loss of contentment can become overwhelming!

Hebrews 11:24-26 provides further lessons in contentment. That passage refers to Moses’ example of laying aside the pleasures of his station in life for the greater reward of the Lord! Moses was content to identify himself with the Hebrews as opposed to the Egyptians (Exodus 3:11-12). Moses didn’t capitalize on the opportunity of being associated with Pharaoh’s family just because it was available! Moses had the opportunity to enjoy all that Pharaoh’s household had to offer, yet his heart was willing to give it up to be identified with God’s people. That was godly contentment. However, Moses did not like the way an Egyptian treated a Hebrew, and Moses was content to commit murder. That was ungodly contentment.

In our lives we may think that our lot in life was given to us by God by virtue of being born into a certain environment or because we encounter a fortuitous turn of events. For some the environment we grow up in may not at all seem advantageous. But, when our environment *does* present advantageous opportunities, or when our “big chance” comes along, we might think that taking advantage of it isn’t ungodly simply because God allowed us to recognize it!

We must be careful not to be content in thinking that just because God allows an opportunity to come our way that it means He wants us to take it! Remember, Satan’s three temptations of Jesus were all offering pleasure of some sort, along with the opportunity to gain in some way (Matthew 4:1-10). One big lesson to learn from Moses is that even when we are content in turning down something God doesn’t want for us, we mustn’t turn around and be content with taking things into our own hands. **Lesson: Satan provides opportunities too; only by actually hearing God’s guidance with our spiritual ears can we know which opportunities to accept and which to reject!**

Characteristics of What It Means to Be Content during Trials

We don’t celebrate Thanksgiving because there is so much in our lives God wants us to be discontent with. We don’t celebrate the birth of our Savior because He desires to lead us into discontentment in Him. So, what else do the Scriptures have to say about contentment? Let’s look at the following example passages from the Bible. Each is followed by a Greek word that is translated in to English simply as *content*, or *contentment*. We’ll also look at some important characteristics of each of those Greek words so that we can formulate a stronger and more meaningful understanding of God’s standard for the contentment which possible to experience only in Him.

1 Timothy 6:1-6 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and *our* doctrine will not be spoken against. Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these *principles*. If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

The Greek word translated as *content* in this passage is αὐταρκείας. It means, “Self-sufficiency in a good sense, sufficiency with oneself as spoken of a satisfied mind or disposition; contentment.” The Spirit of God through Paul makes it clear both to Timothy and us that the gain we are to seek in life is spiritual in nature. It may involve external gain that the world values. Regardless, godly gain can only be received with a spirit of godly contentment. God sees the heart (Proverbs 21:2).

The tough and controversial part about this passage in Timothy is that the Spirit of God is telling us that even those who are slaves must honor their masters. Why? So as to avoid resisting undesirable things in a way that doesn't reflect well on God's message of deep, abiding love and joy in trials! God set the standard very high for believers, but He also gave us His Son and His Spirit. He makes available all that we need to soar above the external circumstances of this real, but hollow world.

Why would God permit any of His followers to be slaves? Most people have probably wondered why God allows “bad things” to happen. The list of what we could consider as “bad things” is endless. Pretty much anything that causes us to feel painful heart disturbances is on the list. That list would certainly include slavery, mistreatment, hard times, disappointments, disease, dysfunction in the home, prejudice, etc., etc., etc. So what's the answer to why God allows “bad things” to happen? It is true; God **permits** and

*...why does God
allow “bad things”
to happen?*

allows some “bad things” to happen, but not because He seeks to create them or because He always likes them to happen. The terrible things that happen in life are a result of what happens in a spiritual war where humans use their God-given free will under Satan's influence. Let's say that again in a little bit different way. While we may not always see how something came to be or why it happened to us personally, unwanted and discomfoting circumstances all unfold as a result of the fact that God gave all humans free will AND as a result of the fact that all humans, except Jesus, have used that free will while under Satan's influence. Though you or I may not actually have done something personally to directly cause a certain negative thing to happen, we are not completely separate from everyone else in a spiritual sense. While it does mean that each of us has a share of experiencing “bad things,” this spiritual connection that God created was necessary in light of the fact that He wanted us to have free will. As a result of that necessary spiritual connection, Christ was able to be sacrificed on all of our behalf! So, even though in some ways we are separate from one another, we are connected to the spiritual war by virtue of being present on the planet, just like the child born into a war in Afghanistan or wherever is connected to that war.

There is much more that can be looked at in terms of our connection to seemingly random and awful events in life, and some is discussed in *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*, chapters 4 and 5. If you want to continue looking at that, then we recommend that book. But, as far as our contentment goes during a “bad situation,” a key part of working with and following God in transforming our discontentment to peace involves reframing our thinking. We must reframe our thinking so that we see the extremely foundational relationships between the spiritual war and our personal lives. That reframing puts us in a position for renewal of the mind and transforming of the heart during a trial. Depending on what God wants for us, renewal and transformation may have to happen regularly in the context of “bad things” that we must face in Him. Whenever this is your situation, then you have been called to a great opportunity to reflect and glorify Him.

Let's look at another passage...

Hebrews 13:5-7 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,” so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?” Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Content in this passage is reflected in the Greek word, ἀρκούμενοι. It means, “To be satisfied, content with.” The concept of being content with what we have can raise many other questions. Does that concept mean we are not to seek to better ourselves? Does it mean we shouldn’t try to get a good job if the one we have isn’t meeting our needs? Does it mean that it is inappropriate to try addressing wrongs?

The world, particularly in the U.S., has created many avenues and opportunities for dealing with wrongs and life’s shortcomings. Yet fundamentally each person will need to get their own specific answers from God concerning the specifics of his/her situation. This means we have to be able to hear His voice in our hearts. You have to be confident that you know for certain whether He wants you to be content with what is in your life, or whether He wants you to strive to realize a change in your life that can only happen if you believe in His plan to make it happen. I have to do the same.

Individually, each of us is responsible to examine ourselves and to discover, with God’s Spirit, how Satan is trying to drive us to act or fail to act. We know that driving and influencing us is Satan’s modus operandi. Satan attacks us according to patterns; it is helpful to recognize them. Unless we can hear God’s voice and guidance super clearly, it is nearly impossible for us to know for certain whether we are clinging to a desire for better things in an ungodly way, or whether God wants us to follow Him in functioning against the situation we are in with a heart that is content and at rest in Him. Without knowing what God specifically wants for you in a trial, you can only guess as to whether your contentment with seeking change in your circumstances is an ungodly contentment or not.

Philippians 4:10-13 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 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. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The Greek word, αὐτάρκης, is translated as *contentment* in this passage. It means, “Content, satisfied with one’s lot.” It reiterates that true contentment comes from a heartfelt understanding of the difference between what we may want our external life experiences to be versus what we know we must embrace with a joyful, godly attitude because it is the spiritual battle in which God wishes us to serve Him.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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In this last example passage, the Greek word for *content* is ἐνδοκέω. It means “To be well pleased; to think well of something by understanding not only what is right and good, but stressing the willingness and freedom of an intention or resolve regarding what is good.” This use of the word *content* also points out how important it is to know when God wants us to experience external sufferings. That isn’t just knowledge of the mind, but of the heart. It involves being resolved to endure what is God’s will for us with a genuine feeling of being “well pleased.” In so doing, God can be well pleased with us!

2 Corinthians 12:10 speaks to contentment in dealing with trials that often happen over and over, or which may last a long time. For example, we may face an illness that lasts a long time. Perhaps it comes either at an early age or at a time when we have a lot going on in life. Satan can get us to think that it is OK to be discontent because “God doesn’t want us to experience it.” When this happens, we are likely to remain discontent. Yet the Greek word for content is connected to a RESOLVE to accept things. Does God want us to embrace a particular trial as it is? If it is His will, then we must embrace it with a godly contentment and peace that passes understanding, not resistance. That takes a lot of resolve. It is a high standard that is only possible to attain regularly in Christ! To be discontent in such situations would be Satan’s goal for us, and it won’t help us serve God with a love that others can see clearly. The more we remain discontent when we are in need of heart transformation, the more we will seek distraction from our troubles instead of transformation.

I’m sure you can think of other examples of undesirable trials in which we must resolve to be content in Christ. Examples could include work or home relationships where we are continually exposed to persons with ungodly behaviors or hurtful attitudes and yet God is not actually guiding us to get out of them! Examples could also include situations that God isn’t changing at this time and which cause us to experience financial disadvantages in spite of our diligence with what God has given us. As we’ve reiterated all along, a vital step in addressing these trials is in discerning what God’s will is for you to do in response to those trials. His Spirit is trying to communicate need-to-know guidance for our immediate problems, but we must do our parts in hearing it with our hearts! That’s our part of using free will! If it is God’s will that you experience those trials then continually work to transform your heart and count it all joy in Him.

If you struggle with applying the concepts of knowing God’s specific will for a trial, transforming your heart, or recognizing Satan’s goals in attacking you, then you may want to consider checking out the *Keys To Understanding Life* course in transforming the heart from pain to peace: *Feelings 101*. In the meantime, let’s summarize:

1. Evaluate your contentment in all situations to better identify your trials; don’t distract yourself from participating in your spiritual battles.
2. Pray for courage to change as God would have you to whenever you recognize you are in a trial.
3. In each trial, make sure you are not functioning according to your old, familiar patterns.
4. Look for how Satan might make you feel good with a false sense of peace by driving you according to your old patterns.
5. Find what God wants to change in you, and then seek guidance on how to respond to the trial.



6. Do what God tells you to do regardless of the outcome (that guidance WILL go against your old patterns!).
7. Pray with thanksgiving for your trial and the opportunity to serve and glorify God. Be content according to His personal direction to you.

Next month's "Hearts Up" will look at why it is often so hard to seek out and hear God's still small voice, even though we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, and even though we know mentally that His Spirit is seeking to guide us in trials. We will also look at the truth about big heart disturbances (rage, anger, depression, panic, strong worry, feeling unloved, or being overwhelmed) versus more mild heart disturbances (concern, small worries, being somewhat anxious, melancholy, frustrated, suspicious, or uneasy). We will look at those in terms of how significant God's guidance is to us in trials when we experience "big or little" heart disturbances.

KEY IN-SIGHTS

“Everyone longs to give himself completely to someone – to have a deep soul relationship with another; to be loved thoroughly, and exclusively. But God, to a Christian, says,

‘No, not until you are satisfied with living loved by Me alone and have an intensely personal, unique relationship with me alone. I love you, my child, and until you discover that only in Me is your satisfaction, you will not be capable of the perfect human relationship that I have planned for you. I want you to stop planning, stop wanting and allow Me to give you the most thrilling plan existing – one that you cannot imagine. I want you to have the best. Please let Me bring it to you – just keep experiencing that satisfaction, knowing that I am – keep learning and listening to the things I tell you. You must wait! Don’t be anxious. Don’t Worry! Don’t look around at the things others have gotten or that I have given them. Don’t look at the things you want. Just keep looking to Me or you will miss what I want to show you. And then when you are ready, I will surprise you with a love far more wonderful than any you would ever dream of. You see, until you are ready, and to this minute to have both of you ready at the same time... until you are both satisfied with Me and the life I have prepared for you, you won’t be able to experience the love that exemplifies your relationship with Me and is thus the perfect love. And dear one, I want you to see in the flesh a picture of your relationship with Me and enjoy the everlasting union of beauty and love. I am God – believe and be satisfied.’”

St. Anthony of Padua, 1247 A.D.

HEART TO HEART

God's Deep Well of Love

Beside the house of one's life
Beneath broad oaks of Thanksgiving,
Rocks of difficulties may be rife
But God's deep well of Love is waiting.

The Son-warmed walls are available for rest
And are sheltered by gables of Grace.
But just being at His well one isn't blest
For we must use it if God's Love we would taste.

Coiled beneath His Grace is the endless tether of God's Spirit
With Jesus Christ, God's Hook of Salvation.
God's well of Love echoes so troubled hearts may hear it
And the thirsty might find its location.

On God's Hook of Salvation, hang the pail of your will;
In trials turn the handle of Submission.
Thus join with God's Spirit and immerse your will -
Full measure of Love makes the heart transition.

In God's deep well of Love we learn to cast our care
Concern or shame, frustration or blame.
Each must be given to His Love as our fare
It is a Gift for disturbed hearts to be tamed.

Darkness would have us ignore the well
Or to think it is too hard to find,
But when Peace we discovered before again we fell
It was at God's deep well of Love sublime.

William J. Clark, Jr.

This poem was written in thanks to God for the wonderful purpose and vision He has provided to Kathleen as she prepares for a sister ministry in assisting others to learn to hear and listen to God with the heart. We look forward to seeing what God will do with you and your life experiences. May God bless you as you serve Him by helping and serving those who are spiritually thirsty. May your eyes always be on Him, and may the ears of your heart always hear His voice.

If you write poems, psalms, lyrics or prose of faith, and would like to share one of them with others in a “Hearts Up” edition, you may submit it for consideration for the *Heart To Heart* feature. You may also submit a personal story or testimony of your own to share how one of the articles or the *Keys* materials helped you draw closer to God during a trial. You can email your submission through the [Contact Us](#) page or send it to the snail mail address provided on that webpage. Be sure to read the **Contribution Guidelines** before sending us your submission. You can view those guidelines by clicking the link provided on the Contact Us page itself.

ENDNOTES

¹ The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Houghton Mifflin Company, © 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, page 287

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Gifts should be made to the name: William J. Clark.

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