

*“Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all; He is my strength from day to day, without Him I would fall. When I am sad to Him I go; no other one can cheer me so; when I am sad He makes me glad - He’s my friend.*

*“Jesus is all the world to me, my friend in trials sore; I go to Him for blessings, and He gives them o’er and o’er. He sends the sunshine and the rain; He sends the harvest’s golden grain; sunshine and rain, harvest of grain - He’s my friend.*

*“Jesus is all the world to me; I want no better friend; I trust Him now, I’ll trust Him when life’s fleeting days shall end. Beautiful life with such a friend, beautiful life that has no end; eternal life, eternal joy - He’s my friend.”*

*-Will Thompson (1847-1909)*

# A Satisfied Heart

When we first give our lives to Christ and accept Him as our Saviour, all of Heaven rejoices! Our own hearts rejoice, too, because we have found the answer to the lostness of our souls in Him, the Joy of life, and the Purpose for living - knowing that our names have been written in the Book of Heaven, our sins blotted out, never to be remembered again. What a glorious promise and gift we have been given, Heaven now having become our home, and a great Salvation so full and free!



## A Fork in the Road

All too soon, it seems, the joyful journey leads us to a fork in the road. The decision we must make... which path should I take? Oh! The roads are marked! One shiny, bright sign with attractive flashing lights marks the entrance to an appealing, wide, well-traveled road marked, “My Will.” On the other side a humble, lowly sign; planted deeply in rich, fertile soil and green pasture, beautifully lettered and well-kept. It says that the road marks the way to fullness of life, the pathway to joy, and the blessing of God. The sign reads, “God’s Will.” The road appears to be narrow and full of twists and turns. Unlike “My Will Road” it tells of losing oneself and surrender to Another. It does not promise continual, sun-shiny skies and an easy travel. Yet, it claims that its way is the way to fullness of life. What a decision! Tell me, which road would you take?

## God’s Will, God’s Way

Following God’s will for your life is truly the only way to obtain a satisfied heart. Following God’s will involves surrender of our own will. Surrender is giving up, resigning, and yielding oneself into the power of another. Surrender to God is giving our hearts, wills, lives, plans, dreams and ambitions - our very lives - into His hand and making God the sole pursuit of our hearts and lives. Dissatisfaction of heart arises within our hearts when our own wills rub against God’s will for our lives, and our hearts pine after something earthly to satisfy our heart’s capacity for Christ.

## Other People Can't Satisfy

A satisfied heart is one that loves God's will and, beyond that, one that loves Jesus more than anything or any other person. Other people and relationships cannot satisfy the need in our hearts for fellowship with God. Often we will look for friends or companions to meet a need in our lives. God has designed that we should fellowship with one another and to encourage, love and inspire one another in Him. However, God hasn't designed for a friend or companion to fill His place in our lives. He wants us to gain our strength, assurance, and confidence from Him alone. It is the power and strength of God that enables us to stand when all else fails and when we are in the midst of opposition. It is as we find who we are in Jesus and how much He loves us that we can have the humble, beautiful, strong confidence in Him that God desires of us.

## Loneliness



Loneliness is an evidence of a sensitive heart. It is the heart longing for love and fellowship. If we try to fill our lonely hearts with a person in a relationship or friendship, we may find ourselves lonelier than before and possibly in a place of spiritual compromise. Loneliness of heart is meant to be fully satisfied by God. Loneliness can be quite painful, and at times our hearts will cry out because of it; but if in our loneliness we go to the Lord and ask Him for a greater in-filling of Himself and a knowing of His great love for us, He will be faithful to meet us in our need and to reveal Himself to us in greater measure. He is the Good Shepherd and desires to give us what we ask of Him. He will lead us in green pastures and fill our cup to overflowing so that we shall not want any good thing. The result will be that our sensitive hearts will be found full of His tenderness for others in their need. His love will prove to be strong in our weakness, and we will be able to comfort others with the same comfort that we have received from Him.

## Trials and Suffering

We can be satisfied in the midst of trials and suffering. It is possible to have our hearts joyful, satisfied, and worshiping the Lord in the midst of trials and suffering! In fact, God desires that we give thanks in all things! When a trial comes, what an opportunity it is to offer a sacrifice of praise! If we worship the Lord in the midst of a difficult trial, what a blessing it must be to the tender heart of Almighty God!

Paul and Silas had just experienced a terrible beating, were thrown into the inner prison, their feet securely fastened in stocks; surely their bodies ached, and their backs must have been torn, bleeding, bruised and swollen. The prison probably was filthy, filled with dank air; and rats could be heard scuttling here and there in their cell. We would expect men in such a condition to be full of self-pity, grumbling and complaining, groaning in their sleep; however, at midnight the neighboring prisoners heard Paul and Silas praying and SINGING! What a testimony it must have been to the other men to hear Paul and Silas worship God in the midst of their pain and suffering! The book of Acts tells us that an earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, all of their chains fell off, and the doors swung open! The presence of God, and the convicting power of the Holy Spirit must have been very prevalent because the first words of the jailer, after calling for a light and falling down before Paul and Silas, were, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas were able to

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speaking the Word of God to the jailer and his family, and that very night he and his family believed and were baptized. What a great victory was won for Christ!

A great victory can be won for Christ in our lives when we give our hearts and tongues to praise in the midst of trial and suffering. A sacrifice of praise that blesses the heart of God will surely bring a lifting of our own hearts, and the eyes of others will be turned to see the Source of Hope within us. We can, by our joyful, satisfied hearts in the midst of trial, draw the hearts of others to Christ.

## Things Can't Satisfy

Possessions or status cannot satisfy the desires of our hearts. Only the things that God can do for us are the things that cannot be stolen from us or taken away. He is the giver of all Good things, and the things He wants for us are eternal treasures that cannot rust or be destroyed. Our relationship with Jesus is the chiefest of all these eternal treasures. God, in His love, will pare away at our hearts, wills and lives until there is nothing we hold nearer to our hearts than Jesus and our relationship with Him. Jesus is really all that matters in view of eternal life and eternity itself. Jesus is the Great Treasure, the Pearl of Great Price! If we place our treasure in Heaven and give our lives to pursue that which is eternal, our hearts will surely follow. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).

## A Surrendered Life

A satisfied heart comes from having a surrendered life. When we initially lay down our lives upon the altar, it is the beginning of a moving of God that will bring us to a place of absolute surrender where He can move and flow through our lives without hindrance. God will, once we have laid our wills down, continue down the "hall of our heart," touching hidden areas of our heart and bringing them to light. Symptoms of unsundered areas will arise in serving of self, seeking our own way, pride, jealousy, and anger. These symptoms will help us to identify and surrender afresh all of our heart to the moving and working of His Spirit in our lives. Our hearts must be willing for this work to begin, and we need to turn toward the path of following God's will; but even this turning is His work. Phillipians 2:13 says, "For it is God Who is at work in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure."

## Getting on the Right Road

If your heart would follow the road marked, "My Will," you, too, can be placed on the road of "God's Will." Ask Him to change your heart, to bring you to the place of surrendering your will. He can place your feet upon the path toward fullness of life, joy, the blessing of having a fruitful life, and a VERY satisfied heart.

*"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20,21).*



-Holly Hageman (Copyright May 1996, 2004)

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