



Finding Contentment by Alana Bergey

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." 1 Timothy 6: 6-8

How many of us want to be more godly? I can personally think of endless ways of how I hope God can craft me more into His image. I want to be more patient, more selfless, more loving. Yet Paul points out one more thing to foster in ourselves, along with godliness: contentment. "Godliness with contentment is great GAIN." It is something God wants us to have in this life, but how can we attain it?

God has recently been showing me the need for a spirit of contentment in my life. He has pushed me to realize that if I honestly dissect my life, I would find that it is far more than just food and clothing that I would believe I "need" in order to be content. I expect God to continue to provide me with things. I forget what are blessings and regard them as what is my due. If they were to be taken from me, I would be devastated.

This is not the attitude I am to take. In a class I took this past semester, we were to read a book entitled *The Intellectual Life: Its Spirit, Conditions, Methods* by A.G. Sertillanges. In the final chapter, Sertillanges writes a final word of warning: "In knowledge, as in everything, one attains salvation only through the cross" (248). What follows is a list of many things we will experience in this life that can hinder us from contentment: dissatisfaction with oneself, sluggishness of inspiration, misunderstandings, acts of injustice, the falling-away of friends, the list goes on. Sertillanges reminds us that we are entitled to nothing. He writes, "all these things can be part of the cross, and all of them come in their turn" (248). The Lord gives and He takes away, but what remains is the Lord and His promises.

*"When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"
(Isaiah 43:2-3a)*

May I focus not on the waters, the rivers, or the fire, but on the Lord my God, the Holy One of Israel, my Savior.

We have the option to choose self-pity or contentment. As we experience adversity, we must decide whether to let our challenges overcome us, or to recognize that the only need we truly have has already been met: "salvation through the cross." I want to choose contentment.

June 2021 |





Making Connections

Carol Landis spoke with **Doris Diener** about her recently published books: "Quilt Whispers" and "Trails of Diamond Sparkles". This is what Doris said:

"Writing is one of the age-old ways of capturing a moment and creating a memory. For many of us, Time dictates immediacy, especially for the events that move us deeply, and then scurries them away to the island of Forgotten. That is the story of my life. Many times, though I was determined to journal, those unique experiences slipped away unrecorded. As I sort through old notebooks, stashed papers with scribbles on them, or segments of notes on scrap papers, I find verses of poetry, significant thoughts, and reflections of experiences. Much that I have written has been tossed away, buried or lost, but every now and then something escapes to be discovered.

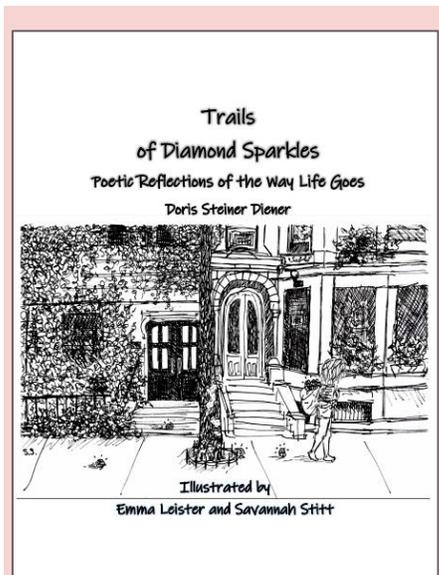
"Designing my book of poetry, *Trails of Diamond Sparkles*, graphics became a requirement. While searching for the "right" artist, the Spirit whispered that talent existed around me that was worthy of being showcased. Emma Leister was the first to catch my heart's message in her illustration of "My Hands" (p. 45). Savannah Stitt's delightful sketches offered the perfect complement to Emma's depth. "A Fresh Perspective" (p. 22) was written in the frustration of overcommitment and too many demands. My idea of an escape to bathe in a bed of clover differed from Savannah's peaceful soak in a tub of nature. Hers made it very accessible for the readers.

"My prayer is that you, the reader of *Trails of Diamond Sparkles*, realize that you too are leaving trail markers behind for others to follow. As valuable as we are to God, the markers we leave behind may have more longevity than we.

"My first book, *Quilt Whispers*, bridges five generations as it tells and illustrates the stories that inspired the quilts. Each creation expresses something about the artist—events, feelings, perceptions. Especially in an era when quilts are no longer primarily made to supply a need, they can be conduits for communication. The notes I jotted at the completion of each reveal poignant whispered messages of delight, anguish, fear, perception or introspection. Each entry asks the reader questions to consider of his/her life.

"I was honored when *Quilt Whispers* was awarded a "Starred Review" from the Pacific Book Review and a "Recommend Review" by the American Book Review, both reputable national companies who review a wide genre of books.

"My prayer is that, as you—the reader of *Quilt Whispers*—look deeper into your life and find glimpses of God peeking through your circumstances offering value, comfort and wisdom. May you desire to seek Him even more."



A few of Carol's favorites

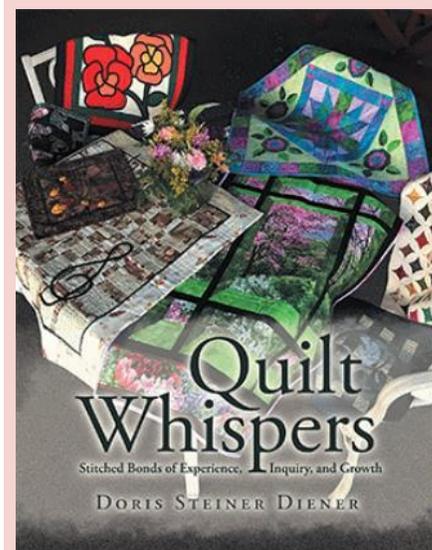
Trails of Diamond Sparkles:

- "A Prayer: Not My Will" (p. 37)
- "Acceptance and Approval" (p. 49)
- "Lead On" (p. 94)

Quilt Whispers:

- "Whispers of a Slower Pace" (p. 7)
- "Whispers of Managing Our Storms" (p. 41)
- "Whispers of Humility" (p. 57)

****Check out Doris's books on the Women's Ministry table, Sunday, June 13.**





Get Involved!

Join us for fellowship, fresh air, and exercise!

Walk in the Park

Tuesday, June 22

7:00pm

at Franconia Park

(meet near the Pavilion
at the Allentown Rd. entrance)

Walk for however long you want.

You are welcome to invite your
daughters and friends.

No signups necessary.

We hope to see you there!

Please remember
to **PRAY** for our
camping ministries
this summer. We
have several
young ladies
serving at camps:
Anna Martin and
Laura Bergey at
Bethany Birches,
and Sydney
Leaman at Spruce
Lake

If anyone is interested in joining the ladies'
Bible memorization/meditation group,

please contact

Carol Landis – caroldanlandis@gmail.com

or Jane Seaman – martyjs@verizon.net

Save the Date: Comforter Blitz
July 13-14

June 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	9 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Walk in the Park 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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