

Contentment and the *If Onlys*

What do you believe about where you are at this moment in your life? Is your situation accompanied by the *if only's*? *If only* I had another job, another spouse, another home, better health, etc. The *if only* list can go on forever. One thing is for certain: *if only's* shatter the possibility of contentment, for as long as we engage in them, contentment remains contingent on meeting those *if only's*.

As Christians, if we are to find any contentment in the midst of adversity and uncertainty, it is vital that we accept our situation as being intentionally allowed into our lives by a loving and personal God and resist contracting the *if only* disease.

Andrew Murray, famous for his book, Abide in Christ, once advised a lady to consider the following truths when in the trials of life. This is what he wrote to her:

In the time of trouble say,

1. God has brought me here. It is by His will that I am in this place. In that I will rest.
2. He will keep me here in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.
3. He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.
4. In His good time He can bring me out again. How and when, only He knows.

Therefore, say, I am here by God's appointment, in His keeping, under His training and for His time.