

GROWING IN CONTENTMENT

Five Rules E.B. Pusey
[modernized]

1. Do not complain about *anything*, not even the weather.
2. Never picture yourself under circumstances different from those you are currently in.
3. Never compare what you have with that of another.
4. Never allow yourself to dwell on the wish that this or that had been, or were, otherwise than it was, or is. God Almighty loves you better and more wisely than you love yourself.
5. Never dwell on tomorrow. Remember that it is God's, not ours. The heaviest part of sorrow often is to look forward to it. "The Lord will provide."

From "Secure in the Everlasting Arms" by Elisabeth Elliot

1. **Go to God first.** Kneel in silence. Lift up your heart and hands. Listen. "I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him" (2 Samuel 15:26).
2. **Receive the Givens and the Not-Givens.** "Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure." (Psalm 16:5).
3. **In acceptance lies peace.** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27)
4. **It is always possible to do the will of God.** "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15, 15:10)
5. **Do it now.** "I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands" (Psalm 119:60). "You do not even know what will happen tomorrow" (James 4:14).
6. **Love means sacrifice.** "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16).
7. **Choose your attitude.** "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who ...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...He humbled himself" (Philippians 2:5, 7-8)
8. **Analyze your struggle. Is it merely delayed obedience?** "I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free" (Psalm 119:32)
9. **Give it all to Jesus.** "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it" (Matthew 16:25).
10. **Do the next thing.** "In the evening my wife died. The next morning I did as I had been commanded" (Ezekiel 24:18).
11. **Give thanks every day and for everything.** "Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything" (Ephesians 5:20).

Quotes from Elisabeth Elliott

- “The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances.”
- “Leave it all in the Hands that were wounded for you.”
- “You can never lose what you have offered to Christ.”
- “The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be. It may seem to be much worse, but in the end it’s going to be a lot better and a lot bigger.”
- “By trying to grab fulfillment everywhere, we find it nowhere.”
- “Don’t dig up, in doubt, what you planted in faith.”
- “The devil has made it his business to monopolize on three elements: noise, hurry, crowds. He will not allow quietness.”
- “God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don’t have now, we don’t need now.”
- “It is God to whom and with whom we travel, and while he is the end of our journey, he is also at every stopping place.”
- “God never denies us our hearts desire except to give us something better.”
- “Fear arises when we imagine that everything depends on us.”
- “The world cries for men who are strong, strong in conviction, strong to lead, to stand, to suffer.”
- “We cannot give our hearts to God and keep our bodies to ourselves.”
- “The fact that I’m a woman doesn’t make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I’m a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.”
- “God’s work done in God’s way never lacks God’s supply.”
- “If all struggles and sufferings were eliminated, the spirit would no more reach maturity than would the child.”
- “...the deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by his letting us have our way in the end, but by his making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to honestly pray what he taught his disciples to pray: Thy will be done.”

- “Things happen which would not happen without prayer. Let us not forget that.”
- “Everything if given to God can become your gateway to joy.”
- “One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime.”
- “If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda which God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.”
- “We are not meant to die merely in order to be dead. God could not want that for the creatures to whom he has given the breath of life. We die in order to live.”
- “Of all things difficult to rule, none were more so than my will and affections.”
- “Today is mine. Tomorrow is none of my business. If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now.”
- “Money holds terrible power when it is loved.”
- “Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.”
- “When obedience to God contradicts what will give me pleasure, let me ask myself if I love him.”
- “To be a follower of the Crucified means, sooner or later, a personal encounter with the cross. And the cross always entails loss.”
- “Worship is not an experience. Worship is an act, and this takes discipline. We are to worship ‘in spirit and in truth.’ Never mind about the feelings. We are to worship in spite of them.”
- “Restlessness and impatience change nothing except our peace and joy. Peace does not dwell in outward things, but in the heart prepared to wait trustfully and quietly on him who has all things safely in his hands.”
- "You are loved with an everlasting love. And underneath are the everlasting arms."