

Inner Abundance



YOU OPEN YOUR HAND AND SATISFY

THE DESIRE OF EVERY LIVING THING....

THE LORD IS NEAR TO ALL

WHO CALL UPON HIM,

TO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIM

IN TRUTH. *Psalm 145:16, 18*



Satisfied

CLARA TEAR WILLIAMS

1858–1937

INNER ABUNDANCE

*O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You;
my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1)*

*Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37b)*

In the chorus of this beautiful hymn, Clara Tear Williams joyfully exclaims, “Hallelujah! I have found Him!” She had discovered the One Who could satisfy her deepest need. Not a philosophy, a religion, or even a better way—she had found God Himself.

In her quest to find meaning in life, Clara had experienced the familiar but deep disappointments of fleeting and shallow entertainment, empty accomplishments, and unfulfilled ambitions. A whole world of those desires, however innocently pursued, could not satisfy her sense of longing “for a drink from some cool spring” to “quench the burning of the thirst ... within.”

In spite of our fallen nature within and the corrupting ways of the world without, there is a yearning for God deep within us—He designed us so! His Spirit witnesses with our spirit, assuring us that only God as the genuine food and drink can satisfy.

When we receive Jesus Christ as Clara did, we also will rejoice that our Redeemer is a “well of water, ever springing”; the “Bread of life, so rich and free”; and “untold wealth that never faileth.” Hallelujah! We have found Him!

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Verse One

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring,
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.

Chorus

Hallelujah! I have found Him
Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings;
Thro' His life I now am saved.

Verse Two

Feeding on the husks around me,
Till my strength was almost gone,
Longed my soul for something better,
Only still to hunger on.

Verse Three

Poor I was, and sought for riches,
Something that would satisfy,
But the dust I gathered round me
Only mocked my soul's sad cry.

Verse Four

Well of water, ever springing,
Bread of life, so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.

Inner Abundance

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SATISFIED

Inner Abundance

SADDLEBAGS FOR A PILLOW

After their dramatic conversion to Christ in 1738, Charles and John Wesley began "circuit-riding," traversing Great Britain on horseback to preach the gospel and strengthen believers. They carried little more than their greatest treasures—

the Bible and their book of hymns. This practice was faithfully continued in the United States, characterized by what Peter Cartwright wrote in his autobiography: A circuit rider endured "storms of wind, hail, snow,



and rain; climbed hills and mountains, traversed valleys, plunged through swamps, swollen streams, lay out all night, wet, weary, and hungry, ... slept with his saddle blanket for a bed, his saddle bags for a pillow." Though often very young, they were truly dedicated: "Of those who died up to 1847, nearly half were less than 30 years old." Clara Tear Williams was also a circuit-riding preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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After a gospel meeting in Troy, Ohio, one of the helpers was requested to write a poem for a new hymnbook. Going back to her room that night, Clara Tear Williams began reflecting on her satisfaction in Christ and His abundant provision in her life and quickly wrote a poem before retiring to bed. The very next morning, Ralph E. Hudson, the compiler of the new hymnbook, wrote an accompanying tune. Thus, the jubilant hymn "Satisfied" was published, providing a sweet

opportunity for Christians to express abundant satisfaction with their Savior in song.

While singing this hymn, one might assume that the author had spent many long years in roaming the earth, panting "for a drink from some cool spring." But Clara Tear Williams had heeded the exhortation from Ecclesiastes to remember God in the days of her youth! She was still in her teens when she penned this sweet, insightful poem, often referred to by the exultant first line of the chorus, "Hallelujah! I have found Him!" But for Clara, her title

Satisfied



“Satisfied” tells it all. She had discovered this profound truth—mankind was made for God and is truly content only with Him. She “found Him”—a Person—Jesus Christ! He became her “well of water, ever springing” and the “Bread of life, so rich and free”!


**YOUTHFUL PURSUIT
OF CHRIST**

Growing up on a family farm in the mid-1800s and having been trained in a manner that cultivated a sensitive conscience, Clara was only thirteen when she felt she was headed in the wrong direction and that her heart was growing harder and harder. She knew that if she did not soon come genuinely into submission to the Lord, she might never! She stated, “One night the matter was settled and as I started up the aisle toward the altar the love of God came into my heart.”

Clara’s salvation experience was not overly emotional; she characterized her rebirth as not so noticeably *strong* as it was *real*. Afterward, she saw the evidence within her heart in her

newfound love for God’s children. She testified, “Before, I wanted to shun them, now my heart was drawn toward them. ‘We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brothers.’”

However, it was not as though Clara were exempt from youthful folly and passions. For most, the world’s allure never beckons more strongly than during those particularly susceptible teen years. As a teen, she confessed that she “failed to keep the blessing of the Lord and a place of amusement became more attractive.” But the Lord had not forsaken her. Rather, He was moving within her, allowing her to realize that the worldly enticements would only leave her with a burning thirst. In vain, she tried to satisfy her hunger by “feeding on the husks around” her.

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But Clara came to a definite point when she felt she had been lured and cheated enough by the world's deceits.



FLOOD OF GLORY

After a meeting when Clara was seventeen, she heard the Lord's voice calling her to a higher level:

As we drove from the church and I looked back at the unworldly appearing [gospel] workers..., knowing as I did that they were despised, the question came forcibly: Would I be willing to give up the world with its fashions and pleasures and fully follow the Lord? My heart responded, "Yes," and there flowed through my being a flood of glory that was inexpressible. Not a word was spoken, and while I believed I had received the cleansing of my heart, I was kept from testifying to it.

Nevertheless, her pastor perceptively noted that she had "taken advanced ground." Clara stated, "From that time I believe Jesus was first in my life."

Her young acquaintances also noticed the change in Clara, and as one would expect, it was not always well received. Her popularity declined, but she overcame that oft-enslaving idol of youth—the admiration and acceptance of her peers. She remembered how "the trifling giddy young people" at school no longer liked her, and she suffered "some small persecutions." How blessed she was to learn their "true loyalties" so soon.

Early in Clara's Christian life, a devastating event occurred, triggering a crisis of consecration. Clara had been provided an opportunity to share Christ's saving grace with two of her classmates. Though desirous to do so, she did not, for her "tongue seemed tied." Shortly thereafter she heard shocking news that her two friends "were both in eternity." She was stricken with regret and turned desperately to seek the Lord.

Clara's Wonderful Counselor intervened in the resultant struggle in her heart through touching words from the hymn "I Need Thee

Satisfied



Every Hour." She said, "The Holy Spirit burnt into my soul my awful need of *His abiding presence*.... From that time I knew what it was to 'hunger and thirst after righteousness.'" How gracious the Lord was to turn a great loss and her accompanying sense of abject failure into eternal gain.



CHRIST MAKES HIS HOME

Clara had aspirations for her future: "My ambition was to make teaching my life work." She felt teaching would supply security and held the prospect of getting the education that her poor health in childhood had prevented. And it would satisfy her desire to "dress well" and "associate with nice, intelligent people." However, for Clara, attaining these goals became a subtle temptation. Her dilemma was one every serious pursuer of Christ has faced. If she were to give herself and her dreams to the Lord without reservation, He may require *everything*.

Clara explained, "While I had given myself to the Lord, it now seemed infinitely more to

consent to His taking possession, and control of my entire being." She described her struggle: "Was I willing to be separate from this proud



Why Pray?

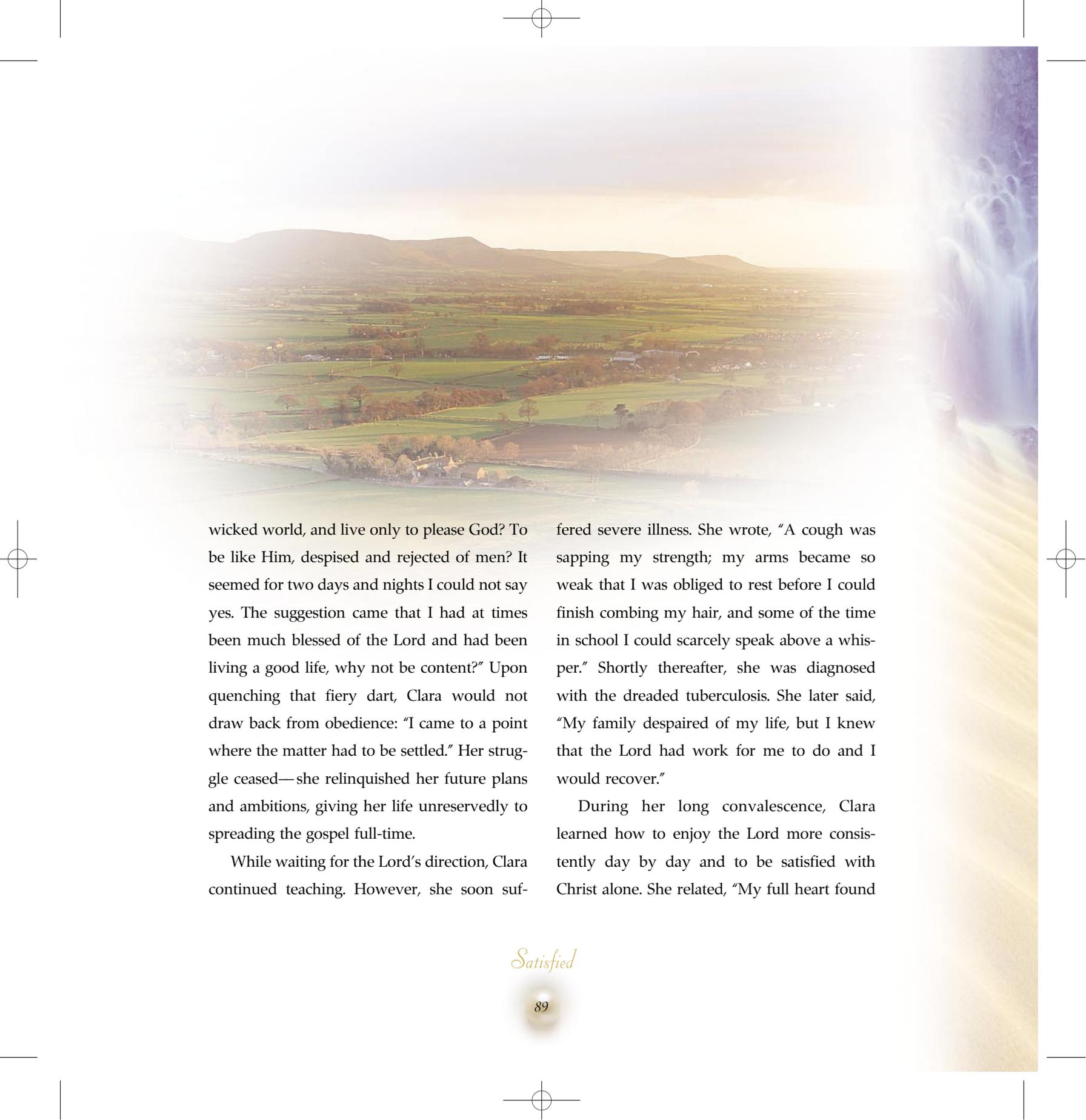
HAVING YIELDED HER PLANS FOR TEACHING TO THE LORD, ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL HER EARTHLY DREAMS PRESENTED ITSELF:

AT ONE TIME A GENTLEMAN ... OFFERED ME A POSITION AS TEACHER WHICH WAS QUITE TEMPTING. I TOLD HIM I WOULD SEND HIM A REPLY IN A FEW DAYS. I WENT TO MY ROOM AND MY KNEES, WHEN THE LORD SAID TO ME, "HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO? WHY PRAY?" I IMMEDIATELY WENT OUT AND GAVE MY ANSWER TO THE MAN WHO HAD NOT YET DRIVEN OUT OF THE YARD.

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Satisfied



wicked world, and live only to please God? To be like Him, despised and rejected of men? It seemed for two days and nights I could not say yes. The suggestion came that I had at times been much blessed of the Lord and had been living a good life, why not be content?" Upon quenching that fiery dart, Clara would not draw back from obedience: "I came to a point where the matter had to be settled." Her struggle ceased—she relinquished her future plans and ambitions, giving her life unreservedly to spreading the gospel full-time.

While waiting for the Lord's direction, Clara continued teaching. However, she soon suf-

fered severe illness. She wrote, "A cough was sapping my strength; my arms became so weak that I was obliged to rest before I could finish combing my hair, and some of the time in school I could scarcely speak above a whisper." Shortly thereafter, she was diagnosed with the dreaded tuberculosis. She later said, "My family despaired of my life, but I knew that the Lord had work for me to do and I would recover."

During her long convalescence, Clara learned how to enjoy the Lord more consistently day by day and to be satisfied with Christ alone. She related, "My full heart found

Satisfied



increasing expression in song, prayer, and testimony." When her health was restored, she began to serve in gospel meetings and soon wrote "Satisfied."

Clara's lifetime of satisfaction in Christ overflowed to others as she traversed the Ohio Valley, the Alleghenies, the Catskills, and the Adirondack Mountains, singing and speaking the gospel in church meetings, camp meetings, and serving as a circuit-riding preacher. Clara married William H. Williams when she

was thirty-six, and together they traveled sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives.

If we allow the Lord to reign in our hearts, He can do amazing, forever meaningful work. In her youth, Clara Tear Williams learned that Jesus would always satisfy her longings. Her hymn "Satisfied" has been echoed by many a Christian heart ever since.

Lord Jesus,

Give me the desire to drink of You to quench my thirst again and again. You are the "Bread of life, so rich and free" that satisfies my hunger every day. For my poverty, You are my "untold wealth" that never fails! Oh, what a Redeemer You are! Gain my heart at this age, in my stage, and in all my circumstances.

Amen

Satisfied

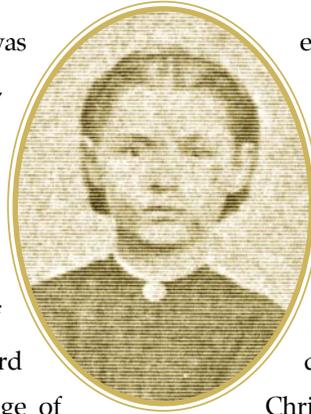
Clara Tear Williams

1858–1937

Clara Tear Williams was born on September 22, 1858, near Painesville, Ohio. She grew up on the homestead inherited from her Christian ancestors who emigrated from the Isle of Man—where they had heard John Wesley preach. At the age of thirteen, “the love of God” came into her heart. In her teens, Clara increasingly consecrated her life to the Lord, yielding her future into His hands.

During her late teens, Clara began assisting others in holding gospel meetings, at which time she penned “Satisfied.” Later, she traveled and preached from town to town as a circuit rider in several states, filling a spiritual void among God’s people.

In May 1895 at the age of thirty-six, she married William H. Williams. He had been a profane, godless young man, but after turning thirty, he had a profound reconsid-



eration of his life and came under intense conviction of his sinful state. A timely word from a faithful Christian leader drove William to go home, pray, and confess his sins. Pacing the floor, he flung open the door of his heart, believed into Christ, and was saved.

This spiritually well-matched couple gave their lives to the Lord’s work. William faithfully earned their living, both as a mill foreman and a school janitor. At other times, he and Clara were circuit riders together. They had three daughters.

Clara served with her husband until his death on May 17, 1934, at the age of seventy-nine. Clara went to be with the Lord on July 1, 1937, at the age of seventy-eight. In addition to leading many individuals to the Lord, Clara wrote the enduring hymn “Satisfied” for future generations to enjoy Christ.

Satisfied

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