Lesson 9
The Singer

Jonathan Edwards, in his sermon entitled “Christian Happiness,” said that there are three reasons why any Christian who knows Christ, and knows they know Christ, can be completely content and free from worry. The three reasons are: your bad things will turn out for good; your good things can never be taken away from you; and the best things are yet to come.

First, your bad things will turn out for good. If God is with you, then not only do you know that he hates the evil in the world — he hates the suffering and the brokenness — but Romans 8:28 says he will walk with you through it, so that even the bad things will have good effects in your life and your heart.

Second, your good things can’t be taken away from you. What are your good things? You are adopted into the family of God; the Holy Spirit has been put into your life; you are justified by Christ’s death for you on the cross; you are being transformed into the image of Christ; all your sins past, present, and future have been forgiven. Those things can’t be taken away — ever.

Third, the best things are yet to come. Eventually you are going to be transformed into a being so glorious — something far greater than your aspirations or anything you can even imagine — and you will live with God forever in the new heaven and new earth. Lack of worry comes from an assurance that these things are true, from an assurance of your salvation.

Jesus says, “Do not worry . . . consider . . . why do you worry . . . consider . . .” (Luke 12:22 – 27). If you are worried, if you are anxious, you’re not considering, you are not thinking. Put it like this: you can either talk to your heart or you can listen to your heart. At some point your heart’s going to start to say, “Oh, no, what am I going to do about this? What am I going to do about that?” At that point, there are two things you can do with your heart. You can sit and listen to your heart and . . . worry. Or you can pray and talk to your heart. You can consider the birds and the flowers.

You can consider your salvation. You can consider that your bad things will turn out for good; your good things can never be taken away from you; and the best things are yet to come. You can pray and say to your heart: “Think about this . . . don’t forget that . . . don’t forget who it is that made you. Don’t forget who it is that saved you. Consider!” Your inner peace and your inner poise are not based on circumstances at all. You can have confidence and trust in God’s wise and good control of your life.