
The New Venture

BY

Captain

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The New Covenant

A Preface That Matters

THIS little booklet is prepared for those "who profess and call themselves Christians", and particularly for the one who has *recently* decided for Christ. Will you please take enough time to read it through carefully? This preface, first of all, calls for your earnest attention. It deals with the **ONE AND ONLY FOUNDATION** of a joyous and prosperous Christian life. A good beginning is essential.

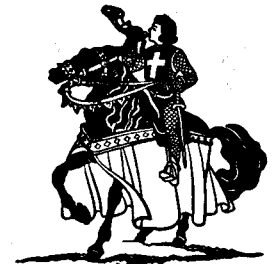
True faith gets under the skin and operates in the spirit. It is a *heart-covenant*, a heart trust, and a heart surrender. It touches the very core of your being. Need it be said that regeneration is *not* accomplished through the signing of a decision card, or raising the hand in a meeting, or even by going to an "Enquiry room" for personal conversation? Any, or all of these may facilitate the *expression* or the *confession* of a quickening faith in the Lord Jesus. Not one of them, however, in and of itself can bring salvation. Heart disease cannot be cured by the external application of a corn plaster. It is *Christ*, and **CHRIST** alone, Who saves. "On Christ the solid Rock I stand." The Irishman's addendum was: "All other rocks are

SHAM-rocks". Exactly! The way of life is blessedly simple but it is the *only* way. Make sure of the validity of your covenant with God. Test your faith by the questions that follow. Be sure of a solid bed-rock foundation for your new life, and then go on to live it in the strength of the Lord.

Please study the Scripture references. It will help if you will mark them in some way in your own Bible.

Yours in His happy fellowship,

Reginald Wallis



The Very First Thing

WHAT is the acid test of a living faith? If an unwavering YES can be answered to the following questions, there is every reason to rejoice in a God-imparted salvation, and humbly to claim membership in the family of God.

(1). Have I recognized that in my natural condition, even up to the noblest attainments of human culture,¹ I am a guilty, undeserving, bankrupt and excuseless sinner,² deserving nothing but eternal separation from God, and utterly dependent upon His grace for the gift of Eternal Life?

(2). Do I honestly believe in my heart that the Lord Jesus was "made sin"³ for me, that in His atoning death all the righteous claims of God in respect to my sin were completely and eternally satisfied?

(3). Do I believe that God raised Him from the dead,⁴ exalted Him to be a Prince and a Saviour,⁵ and that He is now "able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him"⁶?

(4). Have I *trusted* Him, by a decisive act of faith and a sincere



¹ Rom. 7:18
² Rom. 3:23
³ 2 Cor. 5:21

⁴ Rom. 10:9
⁵ Acts 5:31
⁶ Heb. 7:25

committal of my whole being to His care, to save ME?⁷

(5). Do I acknowledge that the only *practical evidence* of a living faith in Christ as my Saviour is a daily recognition of HIS LORDSHIP?⁸

(6). Am I honestly prepared to CONFESS CHRIST⁹ before men, whenever the Holy Spirit presents an opportunity?

While it is not necessary to understand all the implications of these questions, it is good to examine my own heart in the matter of *willingness*. The Lord will work it all out in practice if my heart is conquered. Should there be a lurking consciousness that the epoch I called "conversion" involves anything less than these questions imply, then it would be well for me to go to God by way of Calvary, and *make sure* of a genuine faith. This is always possible. He never refuses the seeking soul. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."¹⁰

Am I truly and genuinely "saved"? Do I *know* that I have passed from death to Life? If there is doubt in my heart, then without any more hesitation, let me turn to God with the prayer: "Lord, save me now".

⁷ 2 Tim. 1:12
⁸ Rom. 14:9

⁹ Luke 12:8
¹⁰ 1 Cor. 3:11

About Being Quite Sure

IT stands to reason that true faith must have a sound basis. It is not credulity or natural speculation, or a mere conjecture of human thinking. Living faith has no less a foundation than the unchanging, inviolate and inspired truth of God. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the *Word of God*¹." The Scriptures testify of the Lord Jesus.² Faith is confidence in a living Person. The Word not only proclaims a complete salvation based upon a perfect atoning sacrifice, but gives the absolute assurance of *present* and *eternal* possession.³ God has spoken the final word and never will He alter what has gone forth from His lips.⁴ As I lay aside all questionings and arguments, relying simply upon the written Word of God, so the Holy Spirit witnesses with my spirit that I am a child of God;⁵ that is, He makes *real to me* the effectiveness of the Saviour. Perhaps there is some concern because my "conversion" was not spectacular or sensational or even emotional. Well, God never promised that it *would* be so. The promise and the process are simplicity itself. God performs a definite miracle of grace the moment a definite condition

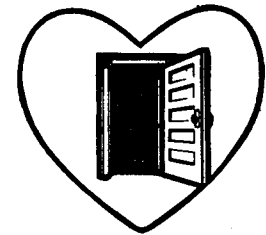
¹ Rom. 10:17
² Jn. 3:39
³ 1 Jn. 5:13

⁴ Ps. 89:34
⁵ Rom. 8:16

is fulfilled, that is, acceptance by faith. What about the promise of Revelation 3:20? So far as I knew how, I honestly opened the door of my heart to the Saviour. How do I know He came in? Only by simple reliance on His faithful Word. *He said He would*. Did He promise feelings, or sensations, or excitement? No! Then why should I look for these? Feelings fluctuate with the weather. God's Word is unchanging.⁶

Remember, however, that a *maintained* assurance depends upon *practical obedience to the will of God*. If the Holy Spirit is grieved,⁷ through self-will or sin, He cannot witness effectively to my salvation because there is contradiction. For this very reason backsliders and carnal believers are often full of doubts. If I walk in the light⁸ each day the Spirit's witness will never fail to bring assurance. "IT IS WRITTEN"⁹

Israel was saved by the blood of the slain lamb, but they were to *feed* on the lamb that they might have strength for the pilgrimage.¹⁰



⁶ 1 Pet. 1:23
⁷ Eph. 4:30

⁸ 1 Jn. 1:7
⁹ Matt. 4:4
¹⁰ Ex. 12:13, 8

This Is Life

BEING "born again"¹ of the Spirit of God is entrance into LIFE.² It is real Life, Life on the highest plane, eternal Life, the very Life of God. The moment I received the living Christ into my heart, my name was registered among the happy company of those who are "ALIVE from the dead".³ Before that time I lived in the "FLESH"⁴—a realm of spiritual death. I was born that way.⁵ I may have been honorable, respectable, upright, virtuous, accomplished, moral and exemplary in many ways⁶—or maybe I was not. God says, "there is no difference, for ALL have sinned"⁷ Though physically alive and enjoying the use of my God-given faculties, I had no SPIRITUAL LIFE.⁸ The "inner man" was alienated from God. The moment I was born again I became quickened in my spirit. LIFE was communicated to me.⁹ Prior to that I was possibly a zealous member of an earthly church, but now I can gratefully claim membership of the one and only



¹ Jn. 3:3
² Jn. 3:16
³ Rom. 6:13
⁴ Rom. 7:25

⁵ Ps. 51:5
⁶ Phil. 3:4-7
⁷ Rom. 3:23
⁸ Eph. 2:1
⁹ Col. 3:3

TRUE CHURCH. All true believers are vitally incorporated into a LIVING ORGANISM. It is a "spiritual house", composed of "living stones".¹⁰ I may have been previously associated with this organized body, or that man-made institution, but now I am a member of HIS body,¹¹ and form a part of the "Church of the First-Born". As a saved sinner, my name is now written in the Lamb's book of LIFE.¹² There is no true Life apart from Him Who is the Life. "He that hath THE SON hath THE LIFE." Alas, many people are *trying to live the Christian life before they have received the Christian life to live.* Salvation is not education, or imitation, or confirmation or human elevation; it is nothing short of INCORPORATION into the living Christ by REGENERATION. I passed from death unto life the moment I trusted in the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour and acknowledged Him as my Lord. Is it not grand really to LIVE after the sham counterfeit and exciting folly which the DEVIL once doled out and called it "seeing life"? To know God is Life. And I know that "this is the true God, and eternal life".¹³



¹⁰ 1 Pet. 2:5
¹¹ 1 Cor. 12:20, 27
¹² Lk. 10:20
¹³ 1 Jn. 5:20

“Simply to Thy Cross . . .”

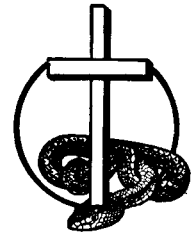
THE meaning of the Cross should be understood by all who name the Name of Christ. The *doctrine* of the Cross is often a mystery to those who quite well understand its *story*. Most people in these civilized lands know the Gospel narrative. The real *doctrinal* significance¹ of the Cross, however, has to do with the ground work of salvation; hence, its importance.

Man is sinful by nature. God’s nature is essentially HOLY.² He is also a God of infinite LOVE.³ It is reasonable, therefore, that every attitude and action of God must be compatible with both sides of His nature—infinite LOVE on the one hand, and inflexible JUSTICE on the other. Manifestly, He can never exercise one characteristic at the expense of another. The justice of God, on the one hand, demands the punishment of sin. Since all men are sinners, therefore, they naturally come under the condemnation of a holy God⁴ and merit eternal separation from His presence; but in that case where does Divine *compassion* come in? On the other hand, God’s love yearns over His sinful creatures and He craves to for-

¹ 1 Cor. 1:18
² Ps. 22:3

³ 1 Jn. 4:7
⁴ Jn. 3:18

give them; but how then can His *justice* find satisfaction? Here is a deadlock. Can there be a way out? Praise God, the great problem found an answer in the heart of God “from the foundation of the world”⁵—a solution which found actual expression on the hill of Calvary nearly two millenniums ago. As the God-Man, the sinless sin-Bearer, shed His precious blood, dying in agony and shame, the Just for the unjust,⁶ so the love of God found a way whereby His justice might be met. Thus God could be “*just and the Justifier*” of all who believe in Jesus.⁷ In raising Him from the dead, a thrice holy God signifies His eternal satisfaction with the Saviour’s atoning sacrifice. “Mercy and truth are met together.”⁸ Hallelujah! No power on earth or hell can alter the decree. “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal Life.”⁹ “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God”¹⁰; and that *all* means *you*. But though God says that “the wages of sin is death”¹¹, there is a But: “*but* the gift of God is eternal life *through* Jesus Christ our Lord”.¹¹



⁵ Rev. 13:8
⁶ 1 Pet. 3:18

⁷ Rom. 3:26
⁸ Ps. 85:10
⁹ Jn. 3:14

¹⁰ Rom. 3:23
¹¹ Rom. 6:23

“If Any Sin . . .”

WHILE it is gloriously true that I enjoy the present possession of Eternal Life, and am therefore eternally secure in Christ,¹ it need hardly be stated that such a wonderful assurance can never be regarded as a *license to go on sinning after conversion*. It may be argued, “If I am eternally justified before God, once and for all, by grace apart from works, then may I not live my own life, go my own way, and do as I please, without forfeiting the blessing of salvation?” Such an argument is unreasonable and unspiritual. It could never be the reasoning of a true child of God. If I make a profession of membership in the family of God, and then deliberately continue to practise sin, my “faith” is vain, and my profession is obviously counterfeit.² It cannot be denied that the only adequate evidence of genuine “sonship” is a “new creation” which issues in new desires, new ambitions, new pursuits, and an honest desire to do the will of God in daily life. This **MUST** mean separation from that which is evil.³ If I “continue in sin that grace may abound”,⁴ my faith is stillborn, and there is positively no *evidence* of a true change of heart. The very possession of a new nature implies a repudiation of my former desires and sins,⁵ and an entrance into “*newness of Life*”.⁶

¹ Jn. 10:28
² Jas. 2:14

³ 2 Cor. 6:17
⁴ Rom. 6:1

⁵ Rom. 6:21
⁶ Rom. 6:4

But what is to happen if, as a true Christian, I DO become conscious of having grieved the Holy Spirit by some selfish or sinful indulgence, some unguarded thought, word or deed? Am I to be “born again” once more? No, the Lord did not say, “Ye must be born again *and again*”. Regeneration takes place once and for all as a crisis. I can never be *more of a child of God or more “justified”* than I am at this moment. Thank God, there is divine provision for the cleansing and the restoration of true believers who may lose touch with God, and fail. “My little children, these things write I unto you that ye sin not. And **IF ANY MAN SIN**, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.”⁷ “He ever liveth to make intercession for us.”⁸ Of course, there is no reason why a believer should consciously sin because an indwelling Saviour lives within. If I *do* sin, however, one thing is sure: *I shall be miserable* until it is confessed and put away. I must recognise that it is now become a *family matter*. It is not the sin of a rebel against God, but the child has grieved the Father. The relationship is not affected, but happy fellowship has been disturbed. Blessed be God for ever for the gracious promise: “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*”.⁹

⁷ 1 Jn. 2:1

⁸ Heb. 7:25

⁹ Jn. 1:9

What Actually Happened?

The *moment I trusted Christ*:

- (1) I was RECEIVED by A PERSON (Jn. 6:37).
- (2) I became ACCEPTED in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6).
- (3) I RECEIVED a Person (Col. 2:6).
- (4) I received the HOLY SPIRIT (1 Cor. 6:19).
- (5) I was incorporated into THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 Cor. 12:13).
- (6) I was BORN FROM ABOVE (Titus 3:6-7).
- (7) I became a CHILD OF GOD (John 1:12).
- (8) I became a partaker of THE DIVINE NATURE (2 Peter 1:4).
- (9) I became an HEIR OF GOD (Rom. 8:17).
- (10) I received an ETERNAL INHERITANCE (Col. 1:12).
- (11) I received PARDON (Eph. 1:7).
- (12) I was JUSTIFIED in His sight (Rom. 5:1).
- (13) I am accounted RIGHTEOUS before God (Rom. 5:19).
- (14) I became FREE from condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- (15) I became a SAINT in Christ (Rom. 1:7).
- (16) I received ETERNAL LIFE (1 John 5:11-12).
- (17) I became RECONCILED to God (Rom. 5:11).
- (18) I became free from FEAR OF DEATH (Rom. 8:2).
- (19) I was "Delivered from THE LAW" (Rom. 7:6).
- (20) I became a SPIRITUAL PRIEST (Rev. 1:6).

"The Third Person . . ."

While such a galaxy of blessing is *positionally* true in Christ of every believer,¹ how does it all become *real, effectual, and practically enjoyable* in daily experience? For this very purpose the Father has given the priceless gift of the Holy Spirit.² This blessed third Person of the Trinity indwells the believer at the moment of regeneration³ and then *abides*⁴ within him until travelling days are done. The Holy Spirit is the representative of the God-head in the world today. He is the Spirit of Christ and of God. He lives within the body of the believer⁵ in order to communicate life and to seal him unto "the day of redemption". It is His blessed function to reveal and illuminate the things of Christ⁶ to the believing mind and heart. Being born of the Spirit, then, I *actually possess* the Holy Spirit at this moment. The very moment I believed, my mortal body became a "temple of the Holy Ghost", a vehicle of divine life. This is true of *every believer*, for "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His".⁷

But this is not all. It is the will of God that His children should not only be indwelt, but be FILLED with the Spirit.⁸ This is something more. All Christians are not filled, for this glorious fulness is dependent upon an *unreserved yielding*⁹ of the whole being to the Lordship of Christ, and results in a fragrant growth of the fruit of the Spirit.¹⁰

¹ Eph. 1:3
² Jn. 16:7
³ Eph. 1:13

⁴ Jn. 14:16
⁵ 1 Cor. 6:19
⁶ Jn. 16:14

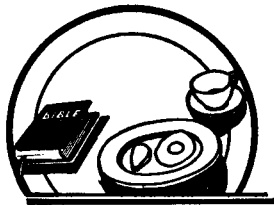
⁷ Rom. 8:9
⁸ Eph. 5:18
⁹ Rom. 6:13

¹⁰ Gal. 5:22

My Bible

WE have seen that becoming a Christian is ENTERING INTO LIFE. Life, however, needs to be nourished if there is to be healthy normal development; *good food* is essential. What is God's provision for spiritual growth? The SCRIPTURES OF TRUTH. If I would grow into the full stature of Christ I must read, study and meditate upon the Word of God continually.¹ I must have frequent meals in the King's banqueting house and jealously shun any temptation to omit this from my daily programme. I must allow *nothing*, however commendable in itself, to rob me of this secret season each day. Let me never for a moment listen to the Devil's subtle suggestion that *other things* are more important. He will leave no avenue unpursued in order to divert me from the pathway of daily devotion. It were better

for me to miss my breakfast than to forfeit my morning feast upon the heavenly manna. Job said, "I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my food".²



¹ Ps. 1:2

² Job 23:12

Practically all backsliding and spiritual decline are originally traceable to a neglect of Bible study and devotional meditation. If I fail to "chew the cud" spiritually I shall become a half blessed, skimpy, emaciated sort of Christian. Such specimens are a slander upon this "so great salvation"! Spiritual invalids³ are a disgrace to the family name. While a little boy was stumbling through Isaiah 6 and repeating part of verse 5, he read, "Woe is me for I am UNDERDONE". I smiled, and thought that many lean Christians might well wail out the same complaint! Shame on the King's son who lives like a pauper, or feeds on husks when there is "enough and to spare" in the Father's house!

Yes, I must read my Bible.⁴ I may **not** understand all I read, but the Holy Spirit promises to administer food convenient for me.⁵ He will teach me all things and bring all things to my remembrance.⁶ Daily Bible reading should be prefaced with a prayer for spiritual understanding.⁷ The Bible is a spiritual book, written by a spiritual author.⁸ One word more, which is important especially today—let me avoid any kind of reading *which takes away a healthy appetite for the Bible*. "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:13).

³ 1 Cor. 11:30
⁴ Jn. 5:39

⁵ Prov. 30:8
⁶ Jn. 14:26

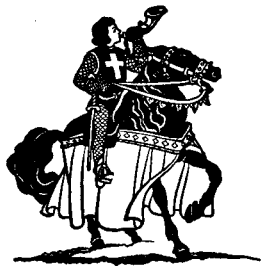
⁷ Ps. 119:18
⁸ 1 Cor. 2:14

The Secret Place

ALL *effectiveness* (not activity) in spiritual witness and work is dependent upon a spirit of unceasing prayer.¹ The Holy Spirit alone² can educate a Christian in this, the highest of all sciences. The disciples prayed, "Lord, teach us to pray".³ The best way to learn HOW to pray is to PRAY. Only as I am willing to follow the Master to the mountain-top, and there commune with God in the heights, may I radiate His glory in the valley. Yes, life is *very* full, and admittedly prayer is a spiritual exercise against which the flesh ever rebels. It is easier to engage in almost any other phase of spiritual ministry than to pray, and to pray through. Yet, the disciple who is *too busy to pray* is much like a manufacturer who is so concerned about the quantity of his output, that he has no concern or time for the power which runs

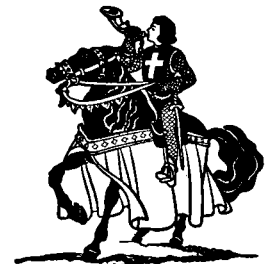
his machinery. Prayer is the dynamo of effective witness.

The place of intercession is the place of personal blessing. Prayer is not a promiscuous asking for things which I think I want, as a child peti-



¹ 1 Thess. 5:17 ² Rom. 8:26 ³ Luke 11:1

tions his father for toys. True prayer is intimate fellowship with God.⁴ It is the communion of the child with the Father. The Lord longs for my fellowship⁵ and my devotion far more than He covets my service and my activity. One precious lesson that the Lord taught me on a sick-bed was that I must DO less and ACCOMPLISH more. There must be less organizing, and more agonizing; less plant and more power; less action and more unction. If necessary, let me tear up my programme of work, and modify my plans in order to BUILD AN ALTAR before the Lord. I must PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!⁶ May my whole life be a sanctuary⁷ of the divine glory, and every moment be rich with His smile. May my heart be a temple where *God can find His pleasure and rest.*⁸ This is the only adequate background of a life that really counts for the Kingdom. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it",⁹ and unless my heart be not only in the right relationship, but also in complete fellowship with my heavenly Father, my labour, though in His Name, will surely be in vain.



⁴ Eph. 6:18 ; John 17 ⁷ Ezek. 11:16
⁵ Prov. 23:26 ⁸ Zeph. 3:17
⁶ Rom. 12:12 ⁹ Ps. 127:1

The Old "I"

CHRISt Himself is the center of the "New Creation" life.¹ It is no longer I (the old I) but Christ (the new I) Who liveth in me.² Every Christian is conscious that the ego, the self-life, still tries to do its traitorous work. That old "I" is the spider behind all the cobwebs of sin. We are all "I specialists" by nature! Is there real deliverance from the dominion of this self-life?³ Manifestly, if the new "I" (Christ) is to have the pre-eminence and supreme sway over my whole being, then the old "I" must be dethroned and constantly kept under; but how? On the Cross "our old man" was once and for all "crucified with Him",⁴ in the Divine plan and purpose; but how does this become REAL in experience? Only as this precious truth is made *my own by faith* in the same simple way as, at conversion, I appropriated the truth that *Jesus died FOR me*. Romans 6:11 says "RECKON (by faith) yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God". It is *faith in God's fact* that brings the victory.⁵ This does not mean that the old evil nature is annihilated or eradicated, so that I become a candidate for a life of "sinless per-

¹ Jn. 14:6
² Gal. 2:20
³ Rom. 7:24

⁴ Rom. 6:6
⁵ 1 Jn. 5:4

fection". The "flesh" will be resident in my mortal body until the end of the chapter. The principle is that faith puts the "flesh" experimentally in the place of death⁶; thus the Devil is robbed of his battle field.⁷ Hallelujah! As I "mortify" (i. e., make to die) what God has "crucified", so I discover that "he that is dead is free from sin".⁸ Can dead men commit sin,⁹ or be offended or annoyed, or be egotistical, or say unkind things? Of course not.

Henceforth I am to be DEAD as far as sin is concerned.

But is this all? No. I have also been "RAISED TOGETHER"¹⁰ with Him in God's great purpose. I have the same body, and the same faculties, yet "this business is under *new management*". It is "no longer I"—henceforth "unto Him!"¹¹ Let me today give my consent to all that the Cross means. As God bends that wretched "I" into *nothing*, then "sIn" becomes "sOn". The old "I" *must* be broken; the old "I" *must* be "O", zero, nothing; thus alone can the SON, the Lord Jesus, be fully revealed in our lives to His own glory. "He *must* increase, . . . I *must* decrease."¹²

S | N
 SON
 SON

⁶ Rom. 8:13
⁷ Eph. 4:27

⁸ Rom. 6:7
⁹ Isa. 42:19
¹⁰ Eph. 2:6

¹¹ 2 Cor. 5:14, 15
¹² Jn. 3:30

“Christ - in - You - ity”

WHAT IS Christian living? In a sentence, it is the **OUTLIVING OF THE INLIVING CHRIST**.¹ It is **HIS** life,² and He is the only One in the wide universe Who can live it. Suppose my admiration for the Prince of Wales is such that I endeavour to *become* the Prince of Wales. Manifestly such a thing is impossible because I have no royal blood in my veins. My imitation of him, however perfect, could never introduce me into membership of the Royal Family, or enable me to *live his life*. If it were possible, however, in some mystic way for the Prince to take up his residence in my body and control me from within, I could then live his life because my will and personality would be lost in his, and it would be no longer I “but the Prince of Wales living in me”. My **CHRIST-ian** life is only possible as He indwells³ me by His Holy Spirit,⁴ and finds in me a willing instrument. “To me to live IS Christ.”⁵ Let me rather abandon my spirit, soul and body to His indwelling control, so that **HE MAY LIVE** through me. “Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”⁶ Only thus can we discover the highest type of Christianity, which is **CHRIST-IN-YOU-ITY**,—*His* life, *His* power, *His* victory, *His* joy, *His* peace, *His* fullness, *His* work made real in me.⁷



¹ Jn. 17:23
² Jn. 14:6

³ Gal. 2:20
⁴ 1 Cor. 3:16
⁵ Phil. 1:21

⁶ Gal. 5:16
⁷ Col. 1:27

On Being Tempted

MANY young Christians are perturbed because of acute temptation to sin after conversion. There is no need for discouragement or a sense of condemnation because of this. It is, in fact, a good sign. The Word teaches that God does not tempt any man to evil.¹ Temptation is from the Devil, and it is by this means that he seeks to thwart the purpose of God in the Christian life.

Temptation *does* become sin, however, the moment I yield to it. Thank God all the enticements to evil, although from the Devil, come within the *permissive will* of God and are Divinely overruled for my joy² and strengthening.³ They become the Lord's testings. Here is a glorious promise. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will . . . also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”⁴

I have an all conquering Saviour living within and He is greater than the evil one.⁵ My triumphant Lord used the only effective weapon against the enemy, the sword of the Spirit; so may I. When temptation crosses my pathway let me send an S. O. S. at once to the Saviour. Like Peter I shall find His strong arm ready with the deliverance.⁶



¹ Jas. 1:13
² Jas. 1:2

³ Jas. 1:12
⁴ 1 Cor. 10:13

⁵ 1 Jn. 4:4
⁶ Rom. 8:37

What's the Harm?

NOW about this knotty problem of amusements. Of course, if a young Christian is perfectly honest with God in the matter and prepared to go all out for Him, then the matter of worldly amusements finds an adequate answer in the heart. There is a difference, however, between recreation and amusements. Christians need recreation of mind and body to keep fit. The body belongs to God and must be cared for and guarded. Healthy recreation is splendid and should be entered into with enthusiasm. I must beware, however, that my recreation does not become an obsession, or hinder my communion.¹

The question of "Amusements" is another matter, and calls for an uncompromising attitude on the part of the consecrated Christian. There are no hard and fast rules laid down in the Word about this, that, or the other form of pleasure or indulgence. The spiritual life is governed by definite principles. I must be honest with God and test out recreation by:

- (1) Is it "of the World"?² (2) Is it "to the glory of God"?³ (3) Can you invoke the Divine blessing upon it?⁴ (4) Is it a "stumbling-block" to others?⁵ (5) Has it the "appearance of evil"?⁶ (6) Is it a "weight"?⁷ (7) Is its "atmosphere" spiritually helpful?⁸



¹ 1 Tim. 4:8
² Jn. 15:19
³ 1 Cor. 10:31
⁴ Prov. 10:22

⁵ Rom. 14:21
⁶ 1 Thess. 5:22
⁷ Heb. 12:1
⁸ 2 Cor. 6:14

I Must Work:

THE very possession of salvation is at once an ordination and a commission.¹ I have been saved UNTO service.² There is nothing selfish or self-centered about the Christian life;³ nor is spiritual ministry the sole privilege of "ministers", evangelists or missionaries. *Every* believer has a ministry, and is called to be a servant of the Lord Christ.⁴ It may not be a *public* ministry. The unostentatious, away-in-a-corner service appointed by God, is equally vital to the out-working of His great eternal purpose. The Lord is depending upon saved sinners to publish the glad tidings by a faithful ministry of life and lip.⁵ It is MY task. The time is short. The Master is coming again.⁶ I MUST WORK, for "the night cometh when no man can work".⁷ The main objective of my life has undergone a radical change since the Saviour entered. I have a big thing to do. I must not fritter away my spare time. My main business is to get busy in co-operation with the Divine purpose⁸ for today. Let me pray "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"⁹ I must avoid fleshly impatience and be faithful in my present task. He will shew me the path of Life in His own time and way. I may not be called upon to leave the secular job or resign the common task. God wants consecration in the daily round¹⁰—in the realm of business, the profession, the school, the university, the workshop, and the home.

¹ Matt. 21:28
² Eph. 2:10
³ 2 Cor. 5:14

⁴ Col. 3:24
⁵ 2 Cor. 3:2
⁶ Jn. 14:3

⁷ Jn. 9:4
⁸ Eph. 3:11
⁹ Acts 9:6

¹⁰ Matt. 25:23

Friendships and Fellowships

ALL true Christians have been vitally united into *one body*.¹ Each is a member of the whole, and none can say of another member, "I have no need of thee".² Therefore, a healthy spiritual atmosphere created by the corporate fellowship of other children of God, is vitally necessary to individual conformity to Christ. No one lives unto himself.³ While retaining a consecrated individuality, the fellowship of other members of the Body is essential. If I become *detached* in my life and service, paralysis and non-effectiveness is sure to ensue. I must love ALL who love the Saviour, irrespective of sectarian labels and denominational differences. As a member of the new creation, my life demands newness of fellowship in that realm. I *must* have a centre of spiritual worship and activity. *I must hook on to a live centre of soul-saving activity*,⁴ where they gather who really fear and serve the Lord. Let me enter the warmth of the family circle right away.⁵ The Psalmist said, "I am a companion of all them that fear Thee."⁶

¹ 1 Cor. 12:20

² 1 Cor. 12:21

³ Rom. 14:7

⁴ Heb. 10:25

⁵ Mal. 3:16

⁶ Psa. 119:63

This, as a working principle, will settle all questions of friendships, whether social, matrimonial, or commercial. Alas, some young Christians have yielded to the Devil's temptation to continue in the company of their former acquaintances. The result inevitably has been spiritual breakdown and backsliding. WHY? Because the Lord condemns an unequal yoke with unbelievers.⁷ "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."⁸ The leaven is always the *evil*; never the good. I cannot lift my former friends to a spiritual level by continued intimacy with them. It never works that way. A bad apple rots the good ones. Even at the risk of being misunderstood, I must make a clean cut from the old circle, nail my colours to the mast, and have a strong mind of my own in this matter. My former friends, in their heart of hearts, will respect my convictions (even though they may not understand) and it is not unlikely that my faithfulness to the Lord will be used to their blessing.⁹ They may shun me, ridicule me, ostracise me—but I shall be doing them a noble service indeed by manifesting the joy of a full and complete salvation.



⁷ 2 Cor. 6:14

⁸ 1 Cor. 5:6

⁹ Prov. 16:7

How Others Will Know

WHILE it is ever true that salvation is "THROUGH FAITH, and NOT of WORKS",¹ the Word is very emphatic that such a salvation is "UNTO good works".² There is no contradiction here. Good works (i. e. a life of practical holiness) become the hall-mark of a true and living faith. Paul says "Not of works"; James says "I will shew thee my faith *by my works*".³ In other words, it is futile for me to speak of faith in God for justification if my practical life, day by day, contradicts that profession.⁴ Those who rub shoulders with me in the daily task cannot see my faith, but they can see ME. My outward testimony is a living "epistle" for all to read.⁵ If I would purchase silver or gold, I have a right to see the hall-marks of *genuineness*. In the same way if I profess to be a Christian, the world expects to see the stamp of reality upon my life and actions.⁶ Here are the vital family characteristics by which others may see that I belong to the Lord:

¹ Eph. 2:8, 9
² Eph. 2:10
³ Jas. 2:18

⁴ Luke 6:46
⁵ 2 Cor. 3:2
⁶ Luke 6:43

- (1) **An Honest Recognition of His Lordship:**
 "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the *Christ* is born of God."⁷
- (2) **Liberation From the Allurements of the World:**
 "For whosoever is born of God *overcometh the world*."⁸
- (3) **Unassailable Honesty:**
 "Everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him."⁹
- (4) **Constant Victory Over Sin:**
 "Whosoever is born of God *doth not commit sin*."¹⁰
- (5) **Obedience to the Will of the Lord:**
 "If ye love Me, *keep My commandments*."¹¹
- (6) **New Desires, Ambitions and Pursuits:**
 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creation*."¹²
- (7) **Spiritual Interests and Thinking:**
 "They that are after the Spirit (*do mind*) the things of the Spirit."¹³
- (8) **A Love for the Fellowship of Other Christians:**
 "We know that we have passed from death unto life because *we love the brethren*."¹⁴

⁷ 1 Jn. 5:1
⁸ 1 Jn. 5:4
⁹ 1 Jn. 2:29
¹⁰ 1 Jn. 3:9

¹¹ Jn. 14:15
¹² 2 Cor. 5:17
¹³ Rom. 8:5
¹⁴ 1 Jn. 3:14

Some Vital Et Ceteras

(1) **My Radiance:** I must let others see that I am *enjoying* life and not *enduring* it.¹ I must have a song in my heart, and a smile on my face if I am to win others. That type of testimony is infectious.

(2) **My Possessions:** I am no longer my own.² All that I have and am belong to Him by dual right of creation and redemption. Shall I yield to His control? I am only a steward in those things with which He has entrusted me.³

(3) **My Speech:** The tongue is a dangerous little member.⁴ What a fountain of evil it may be if uncontrolled by the Spirit! Let me yield my lips to the Saviour,⁵ so that He may speak through me. I must not lend my lips to the Devil for gossip, backbiting, and criticism. No. I MUST not! May others listen to the "gracious words that proceed" out of my mouth,⁶ even as they did of Him. When I am provoked, let me claim grace to withhold the word of unkind retaliation.⁷

(4) **My Thoughts:** This is a very important matter. I must cultivate spiritual thinking.⁸ The mind is an unerring index of the inner life. I must have the "mind of Christ".⁹

(5) **My Example:** The Lord Himself is my pattern,¹⁰ NOT OTHER CHRISTIANS. I must keep my eyes off the example of men, and follow Christ only. *His* glory must be my first concern.

¹ Phil. 4:4

² I Cor. 6:20

³ I Cor. 4:2

⁴ Jas. 3:6

⁵ Prov. 12:18, 19

⁶ Eccl. 10:12

⁷ Prov. 15:1

⁸ Rom. 8:5

⁹ I Cor. 2:16

¹⁰ I Pet. 2:21