

## DAILY USE OF THE BIBLE.

Devotional use of the Bible must always take into account the presence of the teaching Spirit of God. We look for help in daily needs, we also hope for growth of spiritual knowledge by which all separated parts of life shall more and more fit into a perfect and related whole. The daily portion may serve a present need, it may wait to do its office as the seed waits in the ground for the time of springing up and growth. He is a poor disciple who has not stored memories and impressions gathered in days gone by which spring up into new meanings in the heat and light of fresh experiences of life. The wonderful variety of the word of God is assurance that it cannot be exhausted in the longest life. Its horizon seems to widen as we go on our way, and under the teaching of the Holy Spirit it seems to grow in scope and wisdom with our growth.

The vernacular in which God speaks to man is human experience. The unique value of the Bible is that it is the record of the experience of men who stood in peculiar relations to the unfolding of God's plan which culminated in the human experience of Christ and the building of the church under the guidance of his Spirit. Cut the humanity out of the Bible and there will be little divinity left. Behind that humanity always remains the sense of the presence of God. The world, too, speaks to us in human tones, but in its greetings, its demands, its grief and laughter, too often the sense of the presence of God is absent or hidden out of sight. We need to read the Bible daily as a corrective for the world's forgetfulness of God, and for the training of our thought in using his presence and his will as a test and measure of proportion for the work and play of life.

That human language which God speaks finds its purest and its clearest utterance in the life and words of Christ. All the Bible is of him. In its pages all the long preparation is depicted and the story of his life on earth is given. The personal relation to him, and through him to the social uses of the world, must always be the central sphere of life for the disciple. The Spirit, we are told, shall take and declare of Christ unto us. But unless we are familiar with the record of his life and works and words, how are we limiting the power of God's Spirit to do this work?

We need to read the pages of the Bible simply, with the childlike spirit which expects a gift; prayerfully, remembering that the teaching comes through the divine Spirit in our hearts; joyfully, as children of the Father who has given us the Word; thoughtfully, remembering that the message comes by way of the intellect to reach the heart; humbly, for our thought is seldom large enough to be a mirror of divinity to others; thankfully, because the well is inexhaustible and we may draw at need. Thus delightful private associations will grow up about Scripture passages, and we shall use it as a garland where we wander at our will and find out food and refreshment because God himself walks with us in its various ways.—*The Congregationalist*.

Get holy principles, and thou shalt get the pinions of an angel, which shall bear thee above all clouds and storms of earth, into the sunshine and calm of eternity.

## PASSIONATE CHILDREN.

Bursts of passion in a little child must be promptly met by gentle firmness on the mother's part. Loud outcries must be hushed at once, not by angry words or acts, but by grave quietness of speech, which by mere contrast helps to subdue. Kicking, stamping the feet and thrusting the arms may be repressed by physical force if necessary, but be calm and do not show anger yourself. Above all, do not ever grant requests or favors that the child thinks he can gain by having a tantrum. Let him understand from his birth that crying or making "a scene" will never gain the indulgence, and he will soon learn to abandon such unpleasant tactics. As he grows older and can be reasoned with, he should be taught to overcome the beginnings of temper and to struggle against hasty words and anger. Most quick-tempered children have affectionate, generous natures that are easily influenced for good if the lessons are begun very early in life and administered with loving patience and tact.

## LOVE.

When the King and Queen of Italy were recently expected in Paris, the chief gardener of the Luxembourg was required to furnish the dessert for the royal banquet. In order to please the guests, he covered a number of apples and pears, as they grew on the trees, with paper, in which silhouettes of King Victor Emmanuel, Queen Helena, and President Loubet had been cut. It was hoped that the sun would ripen the fruit, and produce the portraits of the respective celebrities on the surface ere it was placed on the table as dessert. As the sun in the heavens could alone produce the required effect, so the image of God on our hearts can only be effected by the shining of the Sun of righteousness.

## WHAT A VISITOR DID.

Recently a young student, taking a vacation trip to Scotland, saw in the country near Glasgow a man of thirty who had been blind all his life. The blind man had never been educated.

He worked a little in the fields or in his own home as best he could, but his life, in the main, was sad and hopeless.

The young student had some small knowledge of medicine, though not enough to do anything for the man's relief. He went to see him and determined to do what he could to give the man a chance.

When he returned to Glasgow he interested a specialist in the case, and the result was that the man was operated on and fully restored to sight. He had lived near to help and healing all his life, but no one had ever been interested to aid him before. The chance visit of a stranger gave him his eyesight.

The young student might easily have passed on and never thought of helping the blind man. Or he might have felt that, as he knew so little about blindness and could not cure the man himself, he was not bound to do anything. But he did not make such excuses. He did just what he could as well as he knew how, and how blessed was the result! What the visit of that stranger on his vacation meant to the man whom he rescued from darkness and helplessness cannot be computed.

There are many people all around us spiritually blind—in utter darkness of

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soul concerning Christ and his healing power. We do not need to be able to fully understand their cases. But if, in the spirit of this young student, we do what we can to bring them to those who can help them—our pastors—we will have the joy, in many respects, of seeing them saved. Are we willing to do such humble, faithful work? If we are, we shall find it blessed and fruitful.—*Forward*.

## To Knock Out Colds

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Don't go through life trying to get even with the one who wronged you. Life is too short for such fool errands. There are better things to do. Your success at retaliation, when coolly considered, will but scatter regret within some happy hour. Forgive, forget; leave the evening up with God. He alone can reckon justly with your foe. If you should try it, you would only make matters worse. Look beyond to the crown; not back to your cross.

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Some people will never trust Providence until his plans are submitted to their approval.

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