

## The Christian Life.

### A WORKER'S PRAYER.

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you."  
—I Cor. xi, 23.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thy erring children, lost and lone.

O, lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
The wandering and the wavering feet;  
O, feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
Thy hungering ones with manna  
sweet.

O, strengthen me, that while I stand  
Firm on the Rock, and strong in  
Thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand  
To wrestlers on the troubled sea.

O, teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost im-  
part;  
And wing my words, that they may  
reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O, give Thine own sweet rest to me,  
That I may speak with soothing  
power  
A word in season, as from Thee,  
To weary ones, in needful hour.

O, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.  
—Francis Ridley Havergal.

### THE GOSPEL AN OPPORTUNITY.

More than anything else, the gospel is a splendid chance for the completing of life in all that is worthiest. It is the only opportunity for that, and its purpose is that above all. Salvation is not an artificial scheme by which men may be spared the consequences of their mistakes and wrong-doing. It is not a skilful device by which the culprit may escape the penalties of heartless law. It is, rather, a splendid opportunity, put within the reach of every one, for growing up out of his failings and his sins, by opening his life to the Spirit of God. It is a great stream of power beating upon the gates of men's lives, to be let in or kept out, as the individual wills.

The career of Christ is a suggestive illustration of this view of the gospel. He was the great opportunity for all the sick, the maimed and the troubled, who lived when he was on earth. His person seemed to be charged with power to be drawn off at will by suffering. It was a great day for the blind, the lame, the demoniacal and the leprous, when Jesus of Nazareth passed by their way. And with this opportunity, as with all, there was the possibility of its existing in vain. Undoubtedly there were many who did not come into contact with the Great Healer, who still bore the burden of their pain after he had gone. They did not know. But there may have been some who knew his power, but would not let him cure. Theirs was a monumental folly, to have health and comfort within their reach and yet refuse to grasp it.

This folly has been repeated through the years. Jesus demonstrated his possession of other power than that of healing the body. He was ever striv-

ing to get those whose bodies he had strengthened to let him touch their souls into new purity of life. He was never satisfied until the outward touch of power upon the body led to the inner touch of grace upon the soul. For the divine grace is to the soul what the power was to the body; and Christ's chief mission was to administer this grace. It was a nobler, higher mission than the other. He was a reservoir of spiritual power. Over the lives that let him touch them in this way came marvellous changes of beauty and strength. Such were John and Peter and Mary Magdalen and Paul, and believers of every generation. But many missed the chance, who refused him power over them. What failures these made of life! the Pharisee, Judas, Pilate, Agrippa. Christ was their chance, and they missed it.

Christ stands before every one as the indispensable opportunity for true manhood or womanhood. No one can attain the best without him. For in the Son of Man is power not only to forgive sin, but also to make as many as believe on him true children of God. And to know of him, and to have the faith that he is the Saviour of the world, and yet to keep that knowledge and that faith from feeding the springs of conduct, to keep them from making life better in any way, is to make Christ to have lived and died and risen in vain. It is the supreme failure of life. To have riches within the grasp and yet to live in poverty, to have health within reach and yet to live on in wretched weakness, these are not so calamitous as for any one to have within him glorious possibilities of lofty spiritual power all undeveloped simply because he will not let Christ touch them, although he stands by waiting to touch them into life.

It is of great interest and assistance to faith to see how the modern view of the world confirms this idea of God pouring forth his life for the perfecting of man. Then no longer push God off, away from this world. Everywhere, to-day, science finds an energy at work that is continually renewing the material universe, and sustaining its operations. The world lives and moves and has its being in God. It is not a finished work rolled off from his hands. But in it his life is still and forever flowing out through all things, in incessant, creative activity. In other words, what science teaches concerning the Creative Force accords in a marvellous manner with what the gospel teaches of God as a God of salvation. What his power is to the material world his grace is to the world of spiritual intelligence. He makes spiritual life possible by his continual outpouring of grace.

Never, in the history of the world, have been discovered and utilized the great forces that are reservoid in nature as they are doing to-day. The physical life of the race has been revolutionized by the achievements of science. Their machines collect and store elusive force for use. Now the gospel teaching about the divine grace is a counterpart of what is seen to-day in the material world. There is a supply of power for the spiritual life of the man as well as for his physical life. And the machine (if the word be permissible) by which that grace is revealed and put into practical touch with men's lives is the cross of Christ, is

the life of Jesus culminating in the cross as the highest utterance of his Spirit. Christ, and him crucified, is the power of God unto salvation, unto every one that believeth, just as the sun is the power of God for the light and life of the world.—*Chris. Intelligencer.*

### OUR INFIRMITIES.

Never do we feel them more than at the hour of prayer. Sometimes our thoughts scatter like a flock of sheep, or flag and faint before the spiritual effort of stirring ourselves up to take hold on God. Who does not have times when (to use Jeremy Taylor's similitude) prayer is like the rising of a lark against the east wind? We even tire in maintaining the attitude of devotion; and how much more its spirit! We know not what to pray for; we are ignorant of the best arguments to employ; we ask amiss; we cannot keep in the perpetual spirit and temper of devotion; we lack that calm faith which can leave its burden at the mercy-seat, and be at rest.

In all this the Spirit helpeth us. He "helpeth our infirmities." Knowing the mind of God, he is aware of those things which it will please our Father to bestow, and which indeed are only waiting for us to ask them at his hand. These he suggests to us: for these he excites strong and passionate desire; with respect to these he leads us to pour out our souls in importunate and prevailing prayer. When next you are sensible of a mighty tide of desire rising up in your heart, bearing you forward on its bosom toward God, yield to it; let it have its blessed way with you; though there be almost pain in the unutterable passion of desire, dare not to restrain it; for the Holy Spirit is then taking you up into the purposes of God, and is leading you to ask those things which lie near his heart, and which brood over you as clouds of blessing ready to break. This is true prayer; the attempt on the part of man to tell out the deep, unutterable thoughts, which the Spirit is inspiring within.—*Rev. F. B. Meyer.*

### THE CUP ON THE FOUNTAIN.

A certain man placed a fountain by the wayside, and he hung a cup near to it by a little chain. He was told some time after that a great art critic had found much fault with its design.

"But," said he, "do many thirsty persons drink at it?"

Then they told him that thousands of poor men, women and children slaked their thirst at the fountain; and he smiled and said that he was little troubled by the critic's observations, only he hoped that some sultry summer's day the critic himself might fill the cup and be refreshed, and praise the name of the Lord. He is my fountain, and here is my cup; find fault if you please, but do drink of the water of life. I only care for this. I had rather bless the soul of the poorest crossing-sweeper or rag-gatherer than please a prince of the blood, and fail to convert him to God.—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

*To Know is to Prevent.*—If the miners who work in the cold water most of the day would rub their feet and legs with Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, they would escape muscular rheumatism and render their nether limbs proof against the ill effects of exposure to the cold. Those setting out for mining regions would do well to provide themselves with a supply before starting.

### A DUTY.

A woman told me a while ago she joined the church because it was her duty and for no other reason. She did not especially like the minister. She could not digest all the creed. She disliked some of its members and preferred the width of the avenue between herself and them, but she professed to be a Christian and believed her place was in the church rather than out. For fifteen years she remained outside and criticised. A barren, unsatisfactory spiritual life was the consequence. She entered finally for Christ's and her children's sake, and the last year had been the happiest and most profitable of her existence.

Do you believe in Christ? Would you honor him? Your place is inside the church of Christ as truly as the soldier's place is inside the regiment; or the sailor's on board ship. But, you exclaim, the creed, the doctrines, the membership, the minister. Well, then, seek the church you can fellowship, even though outside your denomination, and if no such church can be found, take yourself speedily to Jesus Christ. Go into your closet and shut the door with your prejudices on the outside. Then fall upon your knees and pray to be converted all over again. Some of us, you know, need to be converted more than once. Even the seventy times seven recommended by the Master in the olden times. Let God overrule your prejudices and flood your heart with his grace. Then go in the spirit of a little child and ask admittance to the nearest Christian church.—*The Commonwealth.*

### Catarrhal Deafness is Cured

By a thickening of the lining membrane of the middle ear, owing to prolonged inflammation from catarrhal germs. The only cure is fragrant, healing Catarrhazone, one which is carried by the air you breathe to the remotest parts of the throat and ear; it reaches the source of the trouble and cures deafness permanently. Every sufferer from impaired hearing should use Catarrhazone, which has effected many wonderful cures. You simply breathe its healing medicated vapor—very easy and pleasant. Do this and your hearing will be restored. Catarrhazone never fails; it is guaranteed. Two months' treatment for \$1.00 at drug-gists; trial size 25c.

There is needed one more revival among Christians, a revival of Christian giving. When that revival comes, the kingdom of God will come in a day.—*Horace Bushnell.*

*Signals of Danger.*—Have you lost your appetite? Have you a coated tongue? Have you an unpleasant taste in the mouth? Does your head ache and have you dizziness? If so, your stomach is out of order and you need medicine. But you do not like medicine. He that prefers sickness to medicine must suffer, but under the circumstances the wise man would procure a box of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills and speedily get himself in health, and strive to keep so.

The best way to raise missionary money: Put your hand in your pocket, get a good grip on it, then raise it.—*Miss Wishard.*

There is danger in neglecting a cold. Many who have died of consumption dated their troubles from exposure, followed by a cold which settled on their lungs, and in a short time they were beyond the skill of the best physician. Had they used Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, before it was too late, their lives would have been spared. This medicine has no equal for curing coughs, colds and all affections of the throat and lungs.