

THE PERFECTED LIFE. The Greatest Need of the World.

God is all for quality; man is for quantity. But the immediate need of the world at this moment is not more of us, but, if I may use the expression, a better brand of us.

One of the futile methods of sanctifying ourselves is trying; effort—struggle—agonizing. I suppose you have all tried that, and I appeal to your own life when I ask it if it has not failed.

Another man says: "That is not my way. I have given up that. Trying has its place, but that is not where it comes in. My method is to concentrate on some single sin, and to work away upon that until I have got rid of it."

There is another method. I suppose you have tried it. I have. It is to get a book of blank paper and make columns for the days of the week, and then put down a list of the virtues with spaces against each for marks, and then follow it up with a great many rules, and determine to live by rule.

Now, what is the true method? There is one method which is as simple and effectual as the others are complicated and useless. It is laid down in a single verse in the Bible; and it is so practical that any man can apply it to his own life, and as certain in its action as a law of Nature.

Observe: "We are changed." The mistake we have been making is that we have been trying to change ourselves. That is not possible. We are changed into the same image. Now, it is to get the benefit of the relief that these words ought to give to the man who has been spending half his nights and half his life in a frenzied struggle for holiness without having fulfilled the necessary conditions.

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How to get the character: Stand in Christ's presence and mirror His character, and you will be changed in spite of yourself, and unknown to yourself, into the same image from character to character.

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The Lord Jesus who could never get within speaking distance of Him if he came to the world now. We remember He said: "It is expedient for you (not for Me) that I go away;" because by going away He could really be nearer to us than He would have been if He had stayed here.

The Spiritual Character of True Friendship. All friendship, all love, human and Divine, is spiritual. So that it is no difficulty in reflecting the character of Christ that we have never been in visible contact with Him.

Let me say a word or two about the effects which necessarily must follow from this contact, or fellowship, with Christ. I need not quote the texts upon the subject—the texts about abiding in Christ—"He that abideth in Him sinneth not."

The way to trust Christ is to know Christ. You cannot help trusting Him then. You are changed. By knowing Him faith is begotten in you, as cause and effect. To trust Him without knowing Him as thousands do, is not faith, but credulity.

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WHAT DOES THE MICROBE KILLER DO? IT is a Specific for SORE and ULCERATED THROAT, CROUP, DIPHTHERIA, ETC. The microbes of these diseases are destroyed immediately upon application. They need be no longer feared; they are conquered by MICROBE KILLER.

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perience and character follows, and follows necessarily, from standing before Christ and reflecting His character. But the supreme consummation is that we are changed into the same image, "even as by the Lord the Spirit." That is to say, that in some way, unknown to us, but possibly not more mysterious than the doctrine of personal influence, we are changed into the image of Christ.

This method cannot fail. I am not setting before you an opinion or a theory; but this is a certainly successful means of sanctification. "We all, with unveiled face, reflecting in a mirror the glory of Christ (the character of Christ) assuredly—without any miscarriage—are changed into the same image." It is an immense thing to be anchored in some great principle like that. Emerson says: "The hero is the man who is immovably centred."

What a prospect! To be changed into the same image. Think of that! That is what we are here for. That is what we are elected for. Not to be saved, in the common acceptance, but "whom He did foreknow He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son."

It seems to me the preaching is of infinitely smaller account than the life which mirrors Christ. That is bound to tell; without speech or language—like the voices of the stars. It throws out its impressions upon every side. The one simple thing we have to do is to be there—in the right relation; to go through life hand in hand with Him; to have Him in the room with us, and keeping us company wherever we go; to depend upon Him and lean upon Him, and so have His life reflected in the fullness of its beauty and perfection into ours.

There was a famous sculptor in Paris who executed a great work. It stands today in the Gallerie des Beaux Arts. He was a great genius, and this was his last work; but like many a great genius he was very poor, and lived in a small garret. This garret was his workshop, his studio, and his bedroom.

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