

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

Religion is fellowship with God. Fellowship means partnership. We are all familiar with the custom and manner of partnerships among men. Business can be conducted more satisfactorily by a company than by a single individual. Several men unite their capital, skill, and ability, and all work together for one common interest, and share in the profits. So the great God condescends to enter into partnership with men. He unites capital, skill, wisdom, and power with our puny efforts and meagre resources, and permits us to share in His work and in His kingdom.

Men work together with God in temporal things. Not a harvest is produced in the world without the co-operation of God and man. He furnishes the soil, the sunshine, the rain, and the life that is in the seed, and the mysterious energy which produces growth; and man, for his part, clears away the forest, plows the ground, plants the seed, and reaps the harvest. It is so with every house, with every ship, with every railroad and telegraph that man builds. A man will sometimes point to a great invention, a great machine, or a great structure, and, "See what I have made, when in reality he has made a very little part of it. God furnishes the material, and man takes it in hand and makes it into the good for which it was intended.

The Christian recognizes this partnership in all his temporal affairs. He does not abandon his worldly pursuits when he becomes a Christian. He enters into business, into politics, into the study of science and art, and all things that tend to the progress of humanity. But in all these he recognizes the fact that he is a worker together with God. God condescends to give counsel and aid in all temporal affairs, and if we hear His voice and do His will whatsoever we do shall prosper. We have other partners whom we respect and trust. But besides these there is one silent partner whose counsel we seek and in whom we trust in everything. Without Him we can do nothing. "Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son." Here is a firm whose promises are good for any amount. Many a struggling soul has been pulled safely through by this company. Enter into covenant with the Lord in good faith. Invest your all and draw upon His all. His resources will cover all possible exigencies.

This partnership extends to all spiritual things also. "We are workers together with God" in the matter of our own salvation. Some teachers insist that we can have nothing to do with our own salvation, but must sit still and wait for God to do all. They say, "Salvation is of the Lord." "By grace ye are saved through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast." This is true. But in many cases where God is said to do a thing man is said to do the same thing. There is no contradiction here. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it;" yet no house will be builded unless man builds it. The truth is, God and man work together at the same thing and at the same time. The Bible says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh in you to will and to do of His own good pleasure." Has He not commanded us to repent and be converted? He furnishes grace and truth, but it is ours to

make use of them according to His word.

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky."

We are workers together with Him in the salvation of others. He takes men into partnership with Himself in the redemption of the world. He came to establish a universal and everlasting kingdom, and calls men to join Him, sharing in the work and the glory. This is His call, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know that he which converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." The Lord, who met Saul of Tarsus in the way, said unto him that he would send him "far hence to the Gentiles," "to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified." And when the disciples who were scattered abroad on account of the persecution that arose about Stephen went as far as Antioch preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, "the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great multitude was added to the Church." All Christians are members of this holy fellowship. They are all partners in this grand enterprise. The head of the firm is the Almighty Father, and all we are workers together with Him.

THE SORROWING ONES.

They are all about us wherever we turn—the sorrowing ones. Men and women, bereaved, careworn, anxious, disappointed, aye, despairing, are within our reach every day. And those of us who are called by the holy name of Him who went about doing good, ought surely to hear His "Inasmuch" in our hearts and follow, so far as we may, in the places he would tread, in loving personal ministry to the sorrowing.

What aching hearts bereavement is causing every day! Homes shattered, hopes blasted, the joy and brightness of life clouded in a moment—how many have these experiences today. The Master wept in sympathy with Mary and Martha; the Master's disciples should surely give the comfort of sympathy to stricken ones that they know of; nay, more, they should surely look out for opportunities to minister kindness to sad and broken hearts. For there is soothing in human ministrations, there is consolation in the grasp of a friendly hand and in the thrill of sympathy in a friendly voice. Yes, there is comfort in a note of brief, quiet sympathy written by a friendly hand, albeit the writer may not have been able to enter fully into the sufferings of him to whom he writes. Would that Christian people made it a point to be consolers to the sorrowing from bereavement, personally and promptly to see them or to write to them! Perhaps there are none who should more consider this their privilege and duty than those who have themselves suffered. They of all should be alive to every case that falls within their reach. Their own knowledge of sorrow should lead them to be ministering messengers, personally or by pen, to those they know to be similarly afflicted, even to comparative or total strangers. "I know how you feel and I sympathize with you," are words that go far and do much good.

There are others who need such ministry besides those suffering bereavement—though there are none to whom it can be so readily offered. And here comes in the work of the preacher and pastor. In every congregation, at every service, there sit in our churches men and women with broken hearts, crushed with sorrow, blasted by disappointment, oppressed by sin and despair. Do preachers know it? Do they think of it? Surely the blessed Christ always had such people in his mind when he preached. Always. You can hear the note of sympathy, of hope, of encouragement, in every discourse. But you cannot always hear it in the sermons of today. Would that ministers apprehended more fully that what men need is the Gospel, the old message of mercy, compassion, loving-kindness, warm and glowing from the heart of God! Indeed, that is what men and women go to church for—the Gospel. Even the most intellectual of them have sins, sorrows, heartbreaks, that they long to have relieved, and they want the consolations of the Gospel of peace. It would be well if ministers, in every sermon, remembered the method of the Master in this respect, and were very sympathetically and tenderly careful in preaching the Gospel of help and hope to the sorrowful who sit before them.—*Christian Guardian*.

OLD PEOPLE.

I want to say a word to the old people. I see you wherever I go. I see you on the street cars. The conductor gives the car an extra rest when you get on or off, out of courtesy to your slow steps. I see you at church. You nod sometimes, but the sermon is not complete without your smile of approval. I see you in the warmest corner of the hearth reading the paper.

You have one great temptation—it is to think that your days of usefulness are over. You are only in the way, so you feel, and you'd better be out of the world.

It is a great mistake. If the Lord thought that old people were useless, he would have devised some way suddenly to get rid of them.

What makes a person useful? Not ability to work. A baby cannot earn a penny, cannot do a stroke of work, yet it is often the most important factor in the household. Baby's coming often makes father "straighten up;" often unites the estranged hearts of husband and wife; often brings sobriety and industry into the home life.

An old man sitting in an armchair, feeble and helpless, may be the most useful member of the household. Let me say three things to you:

1. Old people are a blessing because of their accumulated wisdom. You have made the journey of life. You have the rich experience. That boy is a bright boy who forms the acquaintance of some aged person.

2. Old people supply a necessary conservative force. You make society more stable. You bring reverence to it. The age that is wise rises before the hoary head.

3. Old people link us to Heaven. You remind us of the future life. "My old mother knows how to pray," said a merchant recently to me. You bind us to the throne of God.

The earth would be positively poor without you. I am not sure but that you are the most useful members of society.—*Advance*.

THE BIBLE'S TRAIL OF LIGHT.

You can trace the path of the Bible across the world from the day of Pentecost to this day. As a river springs up in the heart of a sandy continent, having its father in the skies; as the stream rolls on, making, in that arid waste, a belt of verdure wherever it turns its way, creating palm groves and fertile plains, where the smoke of the cottage curls up at eventide, and marble cities send the gleam of their splendor far into the sky,—such has been the course of the Bible on earth. There is not a boy on all the hills of New England; not a girl born in the filthiest cellar which disgraces a capital in Europe, and cries to God against the barbarism of modern civilization; not a boy nor a girl all Christendom through, but their lot is made better by that great Book.—*Theodore Parker*.

Tendency of Catarrh is to Spread.

Just a slight matter at first, and because slight, neglected; but the seed sown brings forth a dangerous harvest, Consumption, which is the harvest of death. Better spend a few moments each day inhaling Catarrhazone, an aromatic antiseptic that relieves at once, clears the nasal passages, and restores lost sense of taste and smell. The immediate effect of Catarrhazone is magical, so prompt and efficient. Cure is certain and permanent if you use Catarrhazone. Price \$1.00. Small size 25c., at Druggists or Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont.

Progressive Christians who love righteousness and hate iniquity; "who are in the world, but not of it;" who so closely resemble their Elder Brother as to be easily recognized as members of the royal family that is not of earth, are not these necessarily, commendably, gloriously peculiar?

They Never Knew Failure.—Careful observation of the effects of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills has shown that they act immediately on the diseased organs of the system and stimulate them to healthy action. There may be cases in which the disease has been long seated and does not easily yield to medicine, but even in such cases these pills have been known to bring relief when all other so-called remedies have failed. These assertions can be substantiated by many who have used the pills, and medical men speak highly of their qualities.

Christians who give often, liberally, and cheerfully; who do not take advantage of their neighbor's necessities by purchasing his effects for half what they are worth; Christians who do not want the earth, nor a corner on anything, may be peculiar and worth knowing.

In Fields Far Off.—Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is known in Australia, South and Central America, as well as in Canada and the United States, and its consumption increases each year. It has made its own way, and all that needs to be done is to keep its name before the public. Everyone knows that it is to be had at any store, for all merchants keep it.

He who has a good conscience need never be disturbed by the things which he has not; he has that which is greater than them all.—*Selected*.

Severe colds are easily cured by the use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup a medicine of extraordinary penetrating and healing properties. It is acknowledged by those who have used it as being the best medicine sold for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs, and all affections of the throat and chest. Its agreeableness to the taste makes it a favorite with ladies and children.