

## The Christian Life.

### LIVE THY CREED.

Be what thou seemest; live thy creed;  
Hold up to earth the torch divine;  
Be what thou prayest to be made;  
Let the great Master's step be thine.

Fill up each hour with what will last;  
Buy up the moments as they go;  
The life above when this is past  
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

Sow truth, if thou the truth wouldst reap;  
Who sows the false shall reap the vain;

Erect and sound the conscience keep;  
From hollow words and deeds refrain.  
—Horatio Bonar.

### GOD'S LAW OF INCREASE.

BY REV. G. B. HOPKINS, A. M.

The increase of the meal and the oil of the widow of Zarephath presents a beautiful analogy of the way faith increases. God feeds our faith as fast as we use it. "Faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the Word of God." It is a mere seed at first, but it has opportunity to become a sturdy tree. Some people are skeptical concerning portions of the Bible or important truths. But if we have the faith that they will increase. As they increase, the oil of human duty and truth will come clear before them. Abraham was called out of Ur before him his entire life by the way clear as he came by faith. He who is faithfully living what he believes and his duty will be enlarged in truths which he could not grasp. His faith will be fed, and it will expand. The faith already possessed will lead to a richness of vision, as in the case of the blind man, who, beginning to see, as it were, trees walking. A bird never learns to fly by remaining in its nest. Neither can the wings of faith become serviceable if no effort is made to use them. Many a poor sinner might have a clear vision of Christ if he would take the steps toward Christ in which he already believes. Skeptics who have doubted even the existence of God, on honestly seeking him in prayer, have been convinced of his presence and convicted of their own sinfulness and guilt. Christians of little faith have lived up to that, and it has constantly increased. The jar of meal has not wasted nor the cruse of oil failed. As a child, when first sent to school, cannot discern all the benefits of an education nor know into what rich fields of knowledge his studies will lead him, so it is with the Christian as he goes on in faith in the course that God has marked out for him. He proceeds step by step. His faith grows according to his needs. Faith unused may wither away; but used, it becomes more and more vigorous.

What is true of faith is true of the ability to the Christian work. God helps us in doing work for him as we use our ability. It would be of no use for him to give us the ability to do some great thing so long as we neglect to do the little work that is close at hand. God did not give the widow of Zarephath and her guest barrels of provisions in advance of their needs. He

cannot be expected to furnish more talents to those who have buried what they have. He who uses his gifts for prayer by simply bringing his felt needs to God will be better able to express his thoughts in prayer. So it is with one's ability to give a testimony for Christ. D. L. Moody was a notable illustration of the truth that ability to do Christian work increases with use. When he began to speak for Jesus he could express his thought so poorly that his pastor thought that he could never do any good in that way. But what a mighty worker he became in that very line! Many Christians are starving because they do not use their present resources. Many are nothing but bags. They absorb sermon after sermon, but they have no outlet. They seldom or never do anything for Christ. If only they would try to win souls for Christ or endeavor to assist in the Sunday-school or the prayer-meeting, what power they might come to possess.

Again, God gives his children grace to endure trials, to overcome difficulties, to resist evil and to die Christians as the grace is needed. Spurgeon said: "I have known an old lady sit and fret because she believed she should die in a work-house, and she wanted God to give her grace accordingly; but what would have been the good of that, because the Lord meant that she should die in her own quiet bedroom?" We often worry because of supposed difficulties and trials, weeks or years ahead. In many cases they never come, and when they do, God's trusting children find that his grace, like the meal and the oil, increases according to their needs. Happy are they who uses what God gives them for to-day, knowing that he will furnish an abundant supply for tomorrow.

### "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

Birth has much to do with life. How can one live a pure and noble life who has descended from ancestors who were paupers and criminals? Some thinkers maintain that almost everything depends on birth. Men say, "Blood will tell;" "The stream cannot rise higher than its source;" "The child is father to the man;" and Jesus says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." No one can boast of his blood. It is all tainted. Life is a treasure so valuable that it should be kept free from blemish, but it never is.

It is necessary to begin anew. When a traveller discovers that he is on the wrong road, there is but one thing to do, he must turn round and begin again. When a builder discovers that he is building on an inadequate foundation, his work may be admirable, but he must throw it all away, and lay a good foundation and begin again. So it is with life. The bias of heredity gives us a wrong trend. The fault can be remedied by beginning over again. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let his return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him." Saul of Tarsus discovered that his life was wrong, and he counted it all loss and he began again. He did not try to mend his old life, but, becoming as a little child, he made a new beginning. When the Lord Jesus touched him he consented to be crucified with Christ, and then exclaimed, "Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

Some will hold on to the old life. They are proud of their birth, their honesty, their good works, their culture, and their own righteousness. But it is a question of the kind of life. There is a mutual life and a spiritual life. That there are good qualities in the natural life no one will deny. Let them not be disparaged. But they are not spiritual. They do not bring the soul into fellowship with God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Not until God enters into our life through the door of our voluntary surrender to him can we enter into his kingdom. Let men come to Christ with sin and depravity, yea, with all their culture, refinement, and natural goodness and excellence, and be born again, and they shall enter upon a new life as much larger and sweeter, and higher than the old life as the life of an intelligent natural man is higher than the life of the lower animals. It is the life of God in the soul of man. It is eternal life. If the stream can rise no higher than its source, let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, for the source of the spiritual life is God. This is that "life more abundantly" which Jesus came into the world to bestow on men.

### LIVING IN CHRIST.

Abiding in Christ does not mean that you must always be thinking about Christ. You are in a house, abiding in its inclosure or beneath its shelter, though you are not always thinking about the house itself. But you always know when you leave it. A man may not always be thinking of his sweet home circle; but he and they may nevertheless be abiding in each other's love. And he knows instantly when any of them is in danger of passing out of the warm tropic of love into the arctic regions of separation. So we may not always be sensible of the revealed presence of Jesus; we may be occupied with many things of necessary duty, but as soon as the heart is disengaged it will become aware that he has been standing near all the while; and there will be a bright flash of recognition, a repetition of the psalmist's cry, "Thou art near, O Lord." Ah, life of bliss, lived under the thought of his presence, as dwellers in Alpine valleys live beneath the solemn splendor of some grand, snow-capped range of mountains.—F. B. Meyer.

### BETRAYED BY SILENCE.

Christ may be betrayed by silence. One who flatters himself that he does no wrong to his Lord so long as he does not actively plot against him or fight against his cause, is mistaken. He that is not actively on the Lord's side is against him. The very fact of silence is disloyalty. The loyal soul cannot be silent in a world where the enemies of the truth are busy. The nine silent men who were cleansed of leprosy, but did not feel under obligation to give thanks, were guilty of ingratitude and disloyalty. So is everyone who remains silent concerning the mercy of God.

### A Serenely Happy Man.

Is Mr. Thos. McGlashan, of North Pelham, who was cured of muscular rheumatism by Nerviline, the most wonderful rheumatic remedy in the world. "I suffered all manner of pain for years, he writes, and Nerviline was the only thing that did me any good. I can heartily recommend Nerviline for all forms of rheumatism; it goes to the very core of the pain and brings lasting relief. Let every sufferer from lame back and aching joints and swelled limbs use Nerviline. It's sure to cure, and costs 25c. for a large bottle.

### DECEIVED.

Nothing is more common in this world than deceived men and women. Many deceive themselves. They think they are strong when they are weak, wise when they are foolish, rich when they are poor, right when they are wrong, safe when they are in peril. Some are deceived by the world. The pleasures of the world, the riches of the world, the vain pomp and glory of the world lead them astray.

The young are especially liable to be deceived. They have had but little experience. They have been thrown into a wonderful world of which they know nothing. They do not readily receive the advice, the testimony and counsel of those who are older and have had some experience. They must taste of the fruit of all the trees of the garden for themselves. They must have their own experience. In many cases they are led far out of the right and safe way before they have reached the age of discretion.

An old book contained a rude picture of a child shrinking with horror from a harmless grasshopper and at the same time hugging to his bosom the shining folds of a deadly serpent. The picture was intended to be a symbol of the simplicity and peril of youth. There is but one safe way. Jesus is able to save and to keep all those who put their trust in him. Under the shadow of his wing there is a safe refuge.

*A Cure for Fever and Ague.*—Parnell's Vegetable Pills are compounded for use in any climate, and they will be found to preserve their powers in any latitude. In fever and ague they act upon the secretions and neutralize the poison which has found its way into the blood. They correct the impurities which find entrance into the system through drinking water or food, and if used as a preventive fevers are avoided.

"What do they do when they install a minister?" inquired a small boy. "Do they put him in a stall and feed him?" "No," said the father. "They harness him to the church, and expect him to draw it."

Rich and poor alike use Pain Killer. Taken internally for cramps, colics and diarrhoea. Applied externally cures sprains, swollen muscles, etc. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Pain Killer, Perry Davis'.

There is money enough in the hands of church members to sow every acre of the earth with the seed of truth.—*Josiah Strong.*

Lazy old sores, painful and disfiguring, will not linger long after treatment with Weaver's Cerate has been begun. If the Cerate smart, reduce it with sweet oil or lard, and cleanse the blood with Weaver's Cerate.

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.*

Month after month a cold sticks, and seems to tear holes in your throat. Are you aware that even a stubborn and long-neglected cold is cured with Allen's Lung Balsam? Cough and worry no longer.