

Oh, brother and sister, longing for deliverance from the power of sin in your life, longing to walk in freedom and liberty, remember; if you are to be delivered, God must do it. It is perfectly true what you say; you cannot shake yourself free from evil things in your life. Peter could not have made his way through that prison. Herod knew how to build his prisons and he made them strong. And you cannot get out of your prison. It is because you have been trying to break off your fetters by your own strength, and trying to wrestle with the guards, and to beat your way through that door—that is why you are so weary, and find the Christian life terribly hard. As you are longing for holiness, ask God this morning to bring you into utter despair of ever being holy unless He steps powerfully into your life. Will you learn that you cannot keep that temper, and put away that proud heart and keep that finger of mischievousness back. With all these things you are utterly unable to deal. Will you just sink down in utter nothingness before God and cry "Oh, God, I long to be holy! I know I must be holy if I would see thee, and yet I cannot be holy!" Will you not sit down in absolute despair and cry, "My God Thou must do it," for it is when we come to an utter end of ourselves and give the battle up as hopeless that we are ready for God to step in in the marvelous power of His love and grace, and to do the work that sets us wondering and praising the rest of our life.—Contributed.