

## AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

This question, as to our relation to our fellow man, was the defence at the first murder trial. Cain in answer to God's question, "Where is Abel, thy brother?" answered, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain tried to build a defence on this sandy foundation, but we all know the story of how this crumbled before the all-seeing eye of Almighty God. Cain had taken human life and was called upon to answer for this sin. It is very improbable that any of my readers will be called upon to answer for this sin of which Cain was guilty; but we all must answer, and like Cain must answer before God as to our influence over our neighbor, or those with whom we associated in connection with the higher or soul life, especially we who profess to be followers of Jesus.

But says one, "In what way am I responsible for my brother? Are we not each one responsible as individuals for our acts?" To the second question I answer yes; we are all personally responsible for our acts; and again in another sense we are responsible one for the other. The writer can perhaps best make his meaning clear as to our relations to others by the following story:

It was Sunday evening as the men boarded the train for the seaport town where they were to take ship for overseas. As the train moved out of the station a deep feeling of reverence seemed to settle over the men. Some one in the rear of the car started a hymn, soon others joined and others until the whole car was filled with the songs of praise. Those who could not sing were giving thoughtful attention. God was working in the hearts of the men. We will follow these men until the following morning where the application of this story comes in. The train stops at the station, the men are allowed off to buy refreshments. Many rush into the restaurant near by, get their supply of food and are now returning to the train. Presently one young man comes in laughing as he exclaims, "Those people over there are easy. I got my lunch, waited to pay them, nobody came to collect, so I beat it." Satan was at work planting the seed of dishonesty in that young man's life. This did not escape the all seeing eye of God in Heaven and a message was sent to a brother sitting near by. "Speak to that young man!" The brother began to question, "Am I his keeper? He was not speaking directly to me." But the message is still there. "Speak to that young man!" Moments were precious, as the train would soon be away, while the brother hesitated to obey the message of God and wished he had not heard the remark. The train is about ready to start. Will he refuse to obey and deliver God's message? (For we must realize we are not the source of inspiration, but the channel through which God speaks to others.) At length the crowd separated and the halting brother gets as it were the opportunity to speak. He obeys the spirit and delivers the message. The young soldier receives it thoughtfully and acts by going back and paying for the lunch. You see the keeping of brother was delivered to brother by God in this instance. Let us sum up the

result of obedience in this case. The devil is defeated twice. He missed having the seed of dishonesty take root in the young man's life. He missed getting a follower of Jesus into condemnation by refusing to obey God. There is rejoicing in Heaven as the young man goes to make restitution, and the brother feels the joy of approval in the act, while the brother in the train shares the thrill of that heavenly joy in his own soul.

There is no neutral ground; refusal to obey God makes us co-workers with Satan.

Jesus lived for others while on earth and in his death purchased our redemption. When we accept Him as our Saviour He makes us clean by blotting out, or forgiving our past sins, and then gives us power to keep from sin in order that we may be mediums through which He can reach others. We are all responsible for our influence. The man or woman at the various occupations of life, are you living so that others see Jesus through your life. Answer this before God. We may not all have messages to deliver with our tongues but we all have our influence to exert, it may be to speak to others, it may be to live before others; but each one of us are witnessing for or against God by our daily life and in this attitude are influencing others into or away from the Kingdom of God. Think of the privilege of being a messenger for the King of Kings and if you have not already enlisted, do not wait. "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."

## MESSAGE FROM CAMP.

## A GEM.

There are beautiful plants and fragrant flowers, which never impart to us all their delicious odours, only as we crush them; and so there are many choice Christian Spirits which never give us the full benefit of the heavenly fragrance wrapt in them, until some severe trial, or great calamity, or truly overwhelming sorrow, crush their hearts; and then the sweet odorous perfumes of divine grace flow forth, filling all the moral atmosphere around us, and leading us to say with Solomon, "it is as ointment poured forth." These great sorrows are the crucible which our Heavenly Father employs, by which to purge away our dross, and bring out more clearly and distinctly the beautiful image of Jesus.—Sel.

## LIFE WITHOUT THE BIBLE.

A young lawyer, an infidel, boasted that he was going out west to locate in some place where there were no churches, Sunday Schools or Bibles.

Before a year was out he wrote to a classmate, a young minister, begging him to come out where he was and start a Sunday School and preach, and "be sure to bring plenty of Bibles," closing his letter with the words: "I have become convinced that a place without Christians and Sabbaths and churches and Bibles is too much like hell for any living man to stay in."—Record of Christian Work.

"Perseverance is the only Christian grace that cannot be counterfeited."

## WRESTLING IN PRAYER.

The resources of the spiritual kingdom yield only to importunate prayer. There must be patient waiting and vigorous wrestling. Both are essential to that princely character which is life's greatest asset. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,"—change their strength from the earthly to the spiritual, from potential to actual, from the human to the divine. As in the realm of nature so in the kingdom of grace, mysterious and secret forces that are locked and hidden yield themselves only to insistent desire and importunate demand. Real prayer brings a realization of the presence of God and an unveiling of the soul in that presence which clarifies vision, purifies motive, and energizes life. It was the patriarch's strenuous wrestling at Peniel until the break of day that brought the realization of his own need and of the divine presence; that changed the countenance of Esau, saved his company, created an epoch in his own life, and secured for himself that remarkable statement—"Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as prince hast thou power with God with men, and hast prevailed."

This sense of the nearness of God is well illustrated in a story of Horace Bushnell. He was found to be suffering from an incurable disease. One evening the Rev. Joseph Twichell visited him, and, as they sat together under the starry sky, Bushnell said: "One of us ought to pray." Twichell asked Bushnell to do so, and Bushnell began his prayer; burying his face in the earth, he poured out his heart until, said Twichell, in recalling the incident, "I was afraid to stretch out my hand in the darkness lest I should touch God."—From "Winning the World for Christ."

Years ago General Booth made the following statement: "I am of the opinion that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Spirit; Christianity without Christ; forgiveness without repentance; salvation without regeneration; politics without God; and heaven without hell."

"Whenever we try to give happiness to somebody else, we can't help keeping some of it for ourselves."

"Conferences for the deepening of Spiritual Life" are more or less common. The only thing that will really "deepen" the spiritual life is being alone with God. In so far as "Conferences" lead to that, well. The Conferences themselves may stir up a transient emotion. They cannot deepen the Spiritual life."

All that I have taught of art, everything that I have written, every greatness that has been in any thought of mine, whatever I have done in my life, has simply been due to the fact that when I was a child my mother daily read with me a part of the Bible, and daily made me learn a part of it by heart.—Ruskin.

"The first stage to actual sin is to think evil thoughts, the second to love and cherish them."