

"THE SECOND BLESSING."

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There is a "Second Blessing, properly so called." It was promised to God's people in many places in the Old Testament and it is what Christ prayed for the believers in the seventeenth chapter of John. It was given to believers on the day of pentecost, and believers have been receiving the second blessing along down to the present time. Only believers are candidates for it. Christ, the word, the life, the light, the truth, and the way, was given to all that would come to him and believe on his name. He was the first gift from God, the first blessing. Then all that received the first blessing of life, light, truth, and the word, Christ, and followed and believed in the word, life, light and truth they received what Christ promised them. There were some in those days that did not believe in the second blessing, for out of the more than five hundred that saw Christ ascend, only one hundred and twenty continued in the faith until they received the second blessing, the third person in the Trinity. Receiving Christ, the Son of God, was the first blessing and Comforter. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit was the second blessing.

The second blessing must be sought and found and all the conditions complied with before the believer is prepared to enter heaven, because no unsanctified believer can enter there. No sinner, or unclean believer, can be found there. Only the believers that have led on to do his will in and with them, through sanctification of the Spirit and the cleansing blood of Christ. We must all be baptized by the Holy Ghost, into one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, Baptists, Methodists, Quakers or any other denomination. We must all have the second blessing, "having been all made to drink into one Spirit." Believers cannot enter into the Kingdom of God until they get the second blessing. For the Kingdom of God is "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." Any believer with a carnal mind must get the second blessing before he can be subject to all the will of God. Then believers cannot receive the teachings of the Holy Spirit concerning the word of God until they get the second blessing, the gift of God sent to us by the first blessing, Jesus Christ, who said, "I will not leave you comfortless. I will send you another comforter," and he did. "He shall teach and guide you into all truth." And he is able to do it, for he is the Author of the Scriptures. He abides in me, and I in him. In that beautiful oneness, in our great triune God, I have the blessing.

"GOD LOVES ME."

The thought that we must love God to be saved, instead of being saved solely because God loves us, clings most tenaciously to fallen man; but nothing but seeing God's love to us in the cross of Christ, shown when we were dead in sins, can give peace.

A gentleman, after living in sin for many years, in companionship with many others, heard that the ringleader of the party was converted, says the British

Evangelist. All were sorry to lose such a jovial friend, and marveled that he could be such a fool as to become religious. Still he was very happy, and went to his old associates, one by one, and spoke to them of the salvation he had found in a risen Saviour. There was one, however, that he took special interest in. It was this very gentleman of whom I am speaking, and he felt it much, and soon he began to realize the unsatisfying nature of the pleasures of sin, and to feel that he needed salvation. He read his Bible, but could get no comfort. One day he met his old friend, who said to him:

"Do you ever read your Bible?"

"Yes," replied he; but I get no comfort from it—I can not love God!"

"No," said his friend, "nor could I; but the blessed truth is, that God loves me," and then wished him good morning.

"God loves me, God loves me," thought the gentleman to himself, "what can he mean?" But before he reached home that day the thought of God having given His only-begotten Son to die on the cross to save sinners flashed upon his soul with divine, living light.

"Now," thought he, "I see it. I see now that God loves me as a sinner. Yes, God so loves me as to save me;" and his whole soul was filled with joy and peace.

So it is, as the apostle John declares, "Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins." This enables us to love and serve God; for "we love Him because He first loved us" (I. John 4:10-19). It is here the heart finds real joy, gathers up strength for service, and gives glory to God.—The Christian.

THIS LINIMENT IS A PERFECT CURE.

One-half pint each of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity, and one good resolution well shaken together three times a day with prayer will cure the rheumatism of evil eye, blasphemy, grumbling, backbiting, tobacco habit and deceit, kill the nerves of prejudice and purify the blood.

If we can get the worst man there is to use this prescription it will make him love his own wife and children better, and restore him back to manhood and respectability.

If we can get this remedy used in the homes of this country it will cause the ladies to wear full dresses, stop theatre-going, cleanse the heart from inbred corruption and preserve the soul blamelessly. It will stop men's wives from buggery-riding with other wives' husbands.

Shake well before using. Rub well in until it affects the heart. Keep this up 365 days in a year, and if it does not cure you, you can bankrupt heaven. I was down many years with these ailments, and this remedy has wrought a perfect cure.—Sel.

Our Lord used self-denial as the foundation stone of the only salvation that will save men from spiritual and physical ruin. This will be understood better if we consider the evils which come from the opposite course, self-indulgence.

WHERE WILL BE YOUR PLACE IN LIFE?

Young man, or young woman, have you ever stopped to consider carefully what place in life you fill? Above all else you, of course, want to do something for God; you wish to be useful to the betterment of souls, to turn them from a downward course that leads to eternal ruin; but how shall you be prepared to spend time in God's service. You must live; you must meet the requirements of life today if you would have any extra time to devote to God. Not every one can literally leave all temporal employment or temporal business and devote himself exclusively to spiritual service. Such, among the saved, are the minority; but all can work for God or have something to give if they wisely prepare. Begin in youth to live right.

Social, educational and industrial conditions in the United States are vastly different from those of a hundred years ago. Ten, twenty, thirty years hence you will see changes that will surprise you unless you stop to look now, and to read the signs of the times. Be wise; bend everything to help you prepare now. In order to fill an honorable and remunerative place in life you need to specialize. Efficiency is the keynote today. Skill and expertness will be the requirements tomorrow. The door of opportunity is fast closing against the unskilled or common laborer. He can scarcely earn a comfortable living today. He can do very little for God unless he makes very great sacrifices. But the skilled worker, the efficient manager, the well up-to-date professional man finds more calls than he can fill. He is in great demand. Besides providing a good, honest living, he has something to use in pursuit of a higher purpose.

Young man, in future years you will be many times thankful for this step in early life, if you make a wise choice now and make the special preparations that are necessary. Look ahead; begin today while the sun shines to prepare for the days to come. Be prepared to do something for God and souls. Thus you will be able to lift up the doctrine of God, making it desirable; to enrich the kingdom; and to abound in good works. Your reward will be great even in the world to come.—Ex.

We, all of us, need all the grace that has been provided for us; it would be a very foolish pride that would influence us to think otherwise: and it does not enrich God to withhold nor impoverish Him to pour out, so why not let us go in for grace that will "Save to the uttermost?" There is scarcely any one who is living up to his full privileges in the grace of God, but let's you and I go in for His best.

Holiness preserves the soul in tenderness, gentleness and kindness. The older the body gets the more tender the soul becomes. The hoary head can surely be a crown of glory.

"God's Word is indestructible. It bears a charmed life. Men deny it and bury it and probe it, but it survives all its foes and retains its point and power. Reading the book reveals the moral status of nations and men."