

## IS GOD IN EVERYTHING?

By H. W. S. (1875)

One of the greatest obstacles to living, unwaveringly, the interior life, is the difficulty of seeing God in everything. People say, "I can easily submit to things which come from God; but I cannot submit to man, and most of my trials and crosses come through human instrumentality." Or they say, "It is all well enough to talk of trusting; but when I commit a matter to God, man is sure to come in and disarrange it all, and while I have no difficulty in trusting God, I do see serious difficultise in the way of trusting men."

This is no imaginary trouble, but it is of vital importance, and if it cannot be met, does really make the life of faith an impossible and visionary theory. For nearly everything in life comes to us through human instrumentalities, and most of our trials are the result of somebody's failure, or ignorance, or carelessness, or sin. We know God cannot be the author of these things, and yet unless He is the agent in the matter, how can we say to him about it, "Thy will be done?"

Besides, what good is there in trusting our affairs to God, if, after all, man is to be allowed to come in and disarrange them; and how is it possible to live by faith, if human agencies, in whom it would be wrong and foolish to trust, are to have a predominant influence in moulding our lives?

Moreover, things in which we can see God's hand always have a sweetness in them which consoles while it wounds. But the trials inflicted by man are full of nothing but bitterness.

What is needed, then, is to see God in everything, and to receive everything directly from His hands, with no intervention of second causes. And it is to just this that we must be brought before we can know an abiding experience of entire abandonment and perfect trust. Our abandonment must be to God, not to man, and our trust must be in Him, not in any arm of flesh, or we shall fail at the first trial.

The question here confronts us at once—"But is God in everything, and have we any warrant from the Scripture for receiving anything from His hands, without regarding the second causes which may have been instrumental in bringing them about?" I answer to this, unresitatingly, Yes. To the children of God everything comes directly from their Father's hand, no matter who or what may have been the apparent agents. There are no "second causes" for them.

The whole teaching of the Scriptures asserts and implies this: Not a sparrow falls to the ground without our Father. The very hairs of our head are all numbered. We are not to be careful about anything, because our Father cares for us. We are not to avenge ourselves, because our Father has charged himself with our defence. We are not to fear, for the Lord is on our side. No one can be against us, because He is for us. We shall not want, for he is our Shepherd. When we pass through the rivers they shall not overthrow us, and when we walk through the fire we shall not be burned, because He will be with us. He shuts the mouths of lions, that they

cannot hurt us. "He delivereth and rescueth." "He changeth the times and the seasons; He removeth kings and setteth up kings." A man's heart is in His hand, and "as the rivers of water, He turneth it withersoever He will." He ruleth over all the kingdoms of the heathen; and in His hand there is power and might, "so that none is able to withstand" him. "He ruleth the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise He stilleth them." He "bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought; He maketh the devices of the people of none effect." "Whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that does He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places."

"Lo, these are a part of His ways; but how little a portion is heard of Him? But the thunder of His power who can understand?" "Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding."

And this—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled; though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust. His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most high thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

"Be content, therefore, with such things as ye have; for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

## LOYALTY.

A real loyal member from a distant city writing the editor says: "I trust **our ministers** will be loyal to each other and to the denomination, and not get false notions in their minds of union, or absorption in disguise. You know the old proverb, "Distant fields look green." We have a good heritage through the faithfulness and hard work of the pioneers through God's blessing, and I trust it will be appreciated, and not thrown away.

Denominations as a rule can do better work separately than together, some look upon size more than quality, and join, join is their cry. Thank you. We have seen a **sample of absorption** called "union," but the lamb has never been seen since; it is all lion now. No thank you!

## NOTICE.

The Thirty-fourth Session of the Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada will be held at **Beulah Camp Ground, Kings Co., N. B.**, on Wednesday, June 28th, 1922, at 10.30 a. m.

We hope there will be a full attendance of Delegates this year.

SECRETARY.

## THE STERRITT SISTERS IN THEIR NEW HOUSE IN AFRICA.

Hundreds of friends will be glad to know that our missionary girls are cosily settled in their new house, and for the first time looked over their nice new furniture we bought for them from the T. Eaton Co. at Moncton.

In a private letter Sister Helen says: Well, here we are in our new mission house. We took our first meal—dinner—April 4th. We have been busy setting things to rights. It is needless to say that we are pleased, for we know that you know that we surely are, and we know that you are greatly pleased as well. I hardly know what to say first, but I guess I will say that we found the bars of our bed, which we thought were lost, greatly to our delight.

Our stove is certainly a little dear. We do like it so much in every way; it bakes nicely. Our bed and mattress are really lovely indeed. Our dining room table and chairs are lovely, and everything is so nice. We are so thankful that words fail to express our feelings. We use our little silver sugar bowl and pitcher. The kitchen cabinet is a great comfort indeed, and the organ is another great comfort; it was certainly packed well. **Alice is having a** tune now to rest herself a bit.

I just wish some good saint would give you money enough to take a trip over here. **My!** but we would be delighted. It would be money well spent for you both. We have had all the Sanders family to call on us, and Faith, Alice and I are going to call on a sick native man this afternoon, and Faith will take tea with us tonight. All the natives that come along wish to see our (ekaya) home, and they are all so pleased and say our houses is "Muhle Kakuluimpela," meaning it is very nice, completely so.

Sister Alice says: It is with joy that I begin this letter to tell you from our own dear little home—the gift of God through the dear members of the Mission Board, and the homeland friends how we do praise God for it, and our hearts can never express to the dear people what it means to us in far off Africa, to have our own home. The ocean trip was delightful, Dear Mrs. Baker, and the sea voyage is always beneficial, how lovely it would be to see you in Africa. There is room now, you know, for we have that couch to sleep on, and our bedroom can be the guest chamber.

Note.—Our friends will see that Mrs. Baker and the Editor have an invitation to visit Africa for a time.

"An experience that gets no further than feeling is the undertaker that carries away all of our good resolutions made during the revival."