

a fool for Christ's sake; for there is scarcely a page of the Book that is not being slashed by those who are wise above what is written. So if you can turn out some scholars from your class who are firmly grounded in a positive belief in the whole Bible, you will have accomplished something well worth while. Amen.

Let us not take it for granted that everyone believes these things anyway. They don't.

But after all, what shall it profit if our children do know the Bible stories, and our young people are convinced that God reigns, and His Word is true, if this knowledge and conviction is but of the head; for it is with the heart that man believeth unto righteousness, and our final objective is the salvation and perfecting in holiness of every scholar we can possibly reach. Therefore let us stress the receiving of Jesus as a personal Saviour by each individual member of our class.

Many other things need to be stressed in our teaching—Missions, education, personal purity, and such; but we are convinced from observation and experience that the great fundamental truths concerning the sovereignty of God, and His constant activity in all the affairs of individuals and nations; the absolute truth of the Bible from cover to cover; and the definite, personal experience of salvation from sin, as the only way to become a child of God, must be the groundwork and foundation of all our teaching, if we are to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called in these last days. Amen!

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THE PRESENCE OF GOD

By Rev. Floyd L. Skinner

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?" (I. Cor. 6:19).

How literally true the Christian finds this to be. There are special seasons when calm, relaxed and "alone with God," we feel the warm glow of eternal love sweep through our soul and our sensitive heart trembles and vibrates with the divine presence. How sacredly holy! How hushed and solemn! Yet with what joy and exultant spirit we breathlessly wait before God. To be ushered into the very presence of our Creator; what glorious effects it bears. Privilege! Protection! Peace! Power!

It is one of the greatest privileges that a human being can hope for. To think that Almighty God will condescend to enter our hearts with His very presence, making our bodies His temple and using our lives as avenues for service. Our minds fail to grasp the realization of such an experience, yet as our palpitating heart beats in measured throbs under the holy unction, we are as conscious of His presence within as we are that we are alive. How stupendous, amazing and astounding for us to be favored with such a heartfelt privilege. "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

There have been times of indecision as to which course to pursue in Christian conduct, whether to speak or remain silent, to help or hinder, to move up or wait. A wrong choice may have meant much loss in the kingdom. We were forcibly impressed to go ahead. The tenseness of the moment caused us to look within for guidance. The unusual beating heart bespoke His presence and beneath the tension of conditions, a still, small voice warns. Our spirit is checked. We delay our advancing. Time passes and separates us from our difficulty. At such a distance the entire scene is made very much plainer and we see that His presence has actually been a protection,

keeping us from embarking on some rash enterprise, which at the time of indecision seemed to be the only way out.

Again, the presence of God is always accompanied by a rising tide of peace. The cares of life are thrust away. Conditions and environments are lost to view as the soul soars above the earth and rests securely on the bosom of our Lord. The will is yielded fully and the heart consciously opens to the Holy Spirit, inviting a deeper revelation of His presence, while the mind shuts out all sense of time and stays itself on God. With vivid clearness the Scripture blazes its message across the soul. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee" (Isa. 26:3). Perfect peace! How satisfying is the promise and with what increase of hope and trust we now face the future issues of life.

In the midst of inspired thoughts, we are impressed with the feeling of godly power. No task is too hard. No path is too narrow nor cross too heavy under such divine cooperation. How small and trivial seems the trials of yesterday. How bright the future opens before us, stretching its glistening perspective far toward our celestial home. "Heaven is nearer! Friends are dearer!" The hosts of hell are defeated on the right hand and on the left. Jehovah Nissi. The Lord is our banner. The bubbling fountain within increases in volume and velocity as our courage rises under the consciousness of His omnipotent presence. The individual grows in grace. The church militant moves up the incline of "holiness unto the Lord." "They see the triumph from afar, by faith they bring it nigh."

What greater attractive power does the soul need? What greater can it find? The actual, heartfelt presence of God. Let us learn to cultivate such an atmosphere and experience.

"All the struggle then is o'er,

And wars and fightings cease;

Israel then shall sin no more,

But dwell in perfect peace:

All his enemies are gone;

Sin shall have in him no part,

Israel now shall dwell alone,

With Jesus in his heart."

—The Free Methodist

CALEB'S FAITHFULNESS REWARDED

1. Caleb, one of the spies, believed God and urged the people to go up and possess the land. Forty-five years later he claims the promise and receives his portion of the inheritance.

2. By a comparison of the promises made to Caleb, it seems that when the ten spies refused to urge the people to enter Canaan because of the giants near Hebron, Caleb offered to attempt their capture. He afterwards renewed his promise and was given the responsibility he desired.

3. Commentators differ as to the origin of the name "Caleb," but generally it is held to mean a "dog." Here then is the significance of the words, "he followed the Lord wholly." As a dog is faithful to its master, Caleb was faithful to his Lord.

4. Caleb not only fought for himself, but also for his children. As a result, he left for his posterity the "upper" and the "nether" springs.

5. Caleb had another spirit within him—the Spirit of God which lifted him above the lowlands of unbelief and fear. It was for this reason that he was enabled to live in com-

munion with God and to appropriate the blessings of faith.

6. The preservation of his strength was attributed by Caleb to the blessing of God. Were we more careful to express our thanks to God for material and physical blessings, doubtless we should show more nobility of character.

7. It is worthy of Caleb that he desired a task that would call out all the powers of his being. Those who covet easy places can never reach the maximum of their strength, nor employ all their resources.

8. Caleb's life was an illustration of true humility. "If so be that the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said." He attributed his strength to the enabling grace of God.—Herald of Holiness.

EVIL SPEAKING

Rev. R. C. Horner

We are convinced that many good men indulge in this habit who are not conscious that they are doing it. They do not make the words of their mouths a special subject of prayer as well as the meditations of the heart.

All personal expressions that touch the character or usefulness of others would come under evil speaking. Anything that might hinder the usefulness of a person is evil. Those who indulge in these things do more injury to themselves than they do to those that they talk about. They bring leanness upon their own souls and lose the respect of those who are listening to them.

The conversation of holy people should be in heaven. If they are full of God they speak the truth in love. They have the charity that never faileth. They do not speak lightly of any of the people of God. When it is necessary for them to speak of the faults and failings of their brethren in Christ, they do it in pity and charity. They are grieved when any of the children of God do wrong or disgrace the cause of God by the omission of duty or by the commission of crime. Christian people who speak lightly of each other have no influence in a community. Men who pray for the weak and erring have no disposition to speak lightly of them. When it is necessary to speak of their failings they do it in the spirit of prayer and love. Christian men weep over the failings of their brethren as Jesus does. They weep and groan for a better state of things. They are grieved because the cause of God is suffering and being disgraced. What grieves the Lord always grieves them if they know it.

We are anxious that all who may read these thoughts on evil speaking may go to their knees in prayer and learn of Jesus in this matter. God only can give the necessary light to His people to see what is wrong in their thoughts regarding each other. The honest Christian, who wants to see all that is wrong in his heart, will readily find all the necessary light to see the truth as it is in Jesus concerning the words of his mouth. Men who are willing and who are walking in all the light they have, will find when they seek all the light that they need. The Spirit will inspire their approaches toward God and will fill them with faith to enter into the fulness of light as God is in the light. David says: "The Lord is my light." John says: "This is the true light that lighteth every man." Jesus says: "I am the light of the world."—Holiness Era.

A word rashly spoken cannot be brought back with a chariot and four horses.—Chinese Proverb.