

JUST A BIRTHDAY WISH

Another year has rolled away,
 On time great wings it's gone
 To join the other of its kind
 Out in the great unknown.

There has been many times of joy
 As fleet the days go by,
 And we rush on at breakneck speed
 Each day anew to try.

But whilst the Father holds the wheel,
 We journey on secure,
 And often wonder just how long
 The trial must endure.

Our Father planned these lives of ours,
 And the Poet often sings
 The trials of life are stepping stones
 To higher, nobler things.

So as this another birthday
 Adds to your life another year,
 May you hear the Master saying,
 Fear thou not, lo I am here.

Be thou not dismayed I am with thee,
 I will keep thee to the end,
 As I was with those before you,
 I will ever be your friend.

Though the waters dash around you,
 And the winds about you sweep,
 I am with you and will keep you;
 In my hand I hold the deep.

If at times the way seems lonely,
 Not a bit of light you see,
 Don't forget the precious promise:
 I have grace enough for thee.

Jesus knows your every trial;
 He has gone this way before:
 May He guide your every footstep
 Until birthdays come no more.

Eighty-four years His love has led you,
 Let Him lead—He knows the way,
 Till we gather some glad morning
 In that land of endless day.

ALICE M. LEWIS

Note.—This poem was sent by the author to (Mother) Mrs. D. F. Burns, of Cambridge, Mass., widow of the late Rev. D. F. Burns, on her 84th birthday.

MARKS OF THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

By Sue Reynolds Staley

Some people wonder whether they have entered into the Victorious Life. It may be worth while to suggest some of the marks of the life of victory in Christ.

One that will be most quickly recognized by ourselves and others is the absence of the critical spirit, that spirit which delights in analyzing the faults of others,—putting a magnifying glass, so to speak, on the flaws or failures of others, and inviting the confidential friend to come and take a look at this discovery in the field of human nature. The Victorious Christian will be found, rather, in the act of restoration, as found in Galatians: "If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

"The spirit of meekness" is one of the evidences. The spirit of humility remembers that we are made of the same bad, weak material, and that if we have been kept from like sin it is but the grace of God.

Harsh judgment begins to die within us, and love and sympathy for all men take its place; a feeling that is more like the mother's love for

her child is now taking possession of us. We think things and do things that we never even dreamed of; a new power is actuating our life—"the love of Christ."

As Leon Tucker has well said in "The Wonderful Word," of March, 1920: "There is no place in the Victorious Life for the censorious life, and it is sometimes sad to find those who speak much of the Victorious Life, with so much of the censorship on their lips. They criticize and ostracize oftentimes a good deal more than they sympathize. They are quick to pass judgment, and glory in their ability to make spiritual diagnosis of every person they see. They are self-appointed committees of censorship, and every one must pass their censorship if he would attain saintship. They are quick to seize upon the smallest detail. They demand that everybody must pass through the mold of their experience, and fail to see the variety there is in the spiritual life.

"A Victorious Life is not a censorious life; it is not a spiritually suspicious life. It is a generous, gracious, and spacious and large life. The Victorious Life says, 'Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.' It has the love life of the Lord at its heart. It does not parade its spiritual feathers as a vain and proud peacock; it displays the fruit of the Spirit; it is gentle, long-suffering, patient, and practical. The Victorious Life does not exalt as the Pharisee who said, 'I thank thee that I am not as other men. I give, I do, I pray.' The deeper the life the deeper the humility."

We are not found seeking the praise of men. Paul lived in the Victorious Life; he said again and again, "I please not men," and he told us to study to show ourselves "approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15).

The motives in our lives are no longer double, "some for God and some for man." There is one steadfast, fixed purpose in our lives, to follow Him whom, not having seen, we love.

We are not looking for gratitude and appreciation at every turn in the road, for our reward cometh from above and is eternal in the heavens. We are found willing to let the other person have the last word, even if it is unjust and untrue. Quarrel and friction can never be righted in any other way, and we are able to see the truth of the old maxim, "It takes two to make a quarrel."

We are not found gossiping or listening to gossip when we love our brother as ourselves. It is no pleasure to hear others talking against him.

We no longer give way to discouragement and despondency; hope and trust have supplanted those enemies. If indeed we fall into irritation or sin of any kind, we confess it immediately to our Lord, and are restored instantly to the fellowship of the Father and his Son.

We no longer think that when we have given God a tenth of our money, and attended a few religious meetings, we have discharged all of our obligations to God. We know, instead, that all of our time and money is his, and that it is not a question of how much we shall give to him, but how little we shall use for ourselves. We do not have time to be haggling for a few pennies, because we know that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." We bestow all our goods to feed the poor, instead of upon our rich neighbors,—or where it will bring favor and popularity.

There are no thirsts in our life; we have drunk of that water which satisfies. We feel no need of automobile, fine house and clothes; we have realized that, in the life that is filled with

the Spirit, "things" only cumber and give us less time for the blessed service of our Lord.

The Victorious Life is to have perfect quietness of heart, to know no interruption, anxiety, resentment, or disappointment; it is to be willing to work or to rest, to speak or to be still. To the lazy who desire to know more of Christ's fulness he will probably give work; to the energetic he will probably give rest. To either nature this may be the "fiery trial" that will certainly test the metal and relieve of the dross, which is God's purpose and plan for us.

Another mark of the Victorious Life is a willingness to "be still," even when God does not put it upon us in a physical way. One constant hindrance, in the lives of most Christians, to the Victorious Life, is ceaseless activity. It is almost the universal sin of the American, and nothing can more surely and effectively close the door to the Victorious Life. "Be still, and know that I am God", is vitally necessary to any spiritual obtainment. All trace of scheming and merely human planning must go; all desiring to "get on in the world" must be forever a thing of the past.

We shall know God's voice because all other interest and noise has been put out of our inner life, and because we are no longer looking to men to teach us. Our dependence for Victory and for Life is upon Him.

OBITUARY

Verna Evelyn Stairs

The death of Verna Evelyn, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stairs, of Nortondale, occurred November 30th. Death was caused by spinal meningitis, following pneumonia. Funeral service was held at the home and burial in the Cox burying ground. Service was conducted by the writer on December 1st, speaking from Matt. 19:14.

REV. S. G. HILYARD

William Blaney

The death of William Blaney took place at the Montreal General Hospital where he had gone for treatment, on December 13th, following an operation. Brother Blaney was 54 years of age and a life long resident of Maple Hidge. He was a member and deacon of the Reformed Baptist Church of that place. He was a man of few words, but was possessed of a spirit of true piety and love for his Master.

He leaves to mourn, three brothers and seven sisters: Fred, of Marion, Mass.; Frank and Joseph, in the West; Mrs. Annie Coulthard, of Woodstock; Mrs. Tilda Hall, Mrs. Stella Chase, Mrs. Nellie Brown and Miss Lillian Blaney, all of Houlton, Me; Mrs. Sadie Brown, of Mars Hill, Me.; and Mrs. Mae Wallace, of Maple Ridge, with whom the deceased made his home.

The funeral was conducted on the afternoon of December 17th, with prayer at the home and service at the Church. Singing by Maple Ridge choir, assisted by Miss Audrey Brown at the organ. The pastor spoke from Psalms 37:37. A letter was read from a former pastor, Rev. L. T. Sabine. Interment was made in Maple Ridge cemetery.

"He shall be missed for his seat will be empty".

To the sorowing ones we extend our sympathy and prayers.

REV. S. G. HILYARD

It is inconsistent to close our eyes to what God commands us, and beseech Him to open His ears to our petitions. If we would have Him near our prayers, we should heed His commands.—*The Presbyterian Record*.