

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

—ECCLES. 12:1

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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A BLESSING TURNED INTO A CURSE

God put ambition in man's heart that it might be a constant stimulus to him to strain every nerve for the attainment of the highest and best condition to which he is capable of rising, and God endowed man with the capacity for unlimited development by making it possible for him to become a partaker of the divine nature.

But as the result of man's absorption in the pleasures and pursuits of the present life, his ambition has become perverted, and instead of inciting him to seek, above all things, likeness to God, nearness to God, and fellowship with God in service, it impels him to seek the gratification of his pride, or his vanity, or of his desire for wealth, or for power to gratify his wishes.

Thus, the very element in man's nature which was designed to be most helpful to him has been converted by misuse into a curse.

How greatly the world has been cursed by the ambition of men and women who were endowed with ability for generalship and had opportunity for the exercise of that ability on a large scale. How many thousands of lives were sacrificed on the altar of ambition by the Tartar conquerors, Genghis and Timur, and by Napoleon Bonaparte! What did these men care how many died or how many families were left destitute if only their ambition were gratified?

It is easy to see what an evil thing a selfish ambition is, when it is allowed to gain full control of a man who has the opportunity and the ability to gratify it on a large scale; for that can be done only at the expense of other people. But it is not so easy to realize that whenever we allow selfish ambitions to dominate us, we grow smaller and meaner in our own souls in proportion to the measure in which we are absorbed in such ambitions.

That is one of the worst effects of the concentration of wealth and of the opportunities for creating wealth in a few hands. It destroys those who profit by it. No man can go on piling up millions upon millions with insatiable greed without dwarfing his own soul; for where a man's treasure is there his heart is.—Author Unknown.

THE PLACE OF THE RED SEA

Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life

Where, in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way back,
There is no other way but—through?
Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene
Till the night of your fear is gone;
He will send the wind, He will send the floods
When He says to your soul, "Go on!"

And His hand will lead you through—clear through—

Ere the watery walls roll down;
No foe can reach you, no wave can touch you,
No mightiest sea can drown.
The tossing billows may rear their crests—
Their foam at your feet may break;
But over their bed you shall walk, dry shod,
In the path that your Lord shall make.

In the morning watch, 'neath the lifted cloud,
You shall see but the Lord alone,
When He leads you on from the place of the sea

To a land that you have not known;
And your fears shall pass, as your foes have passed—

You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
A place that His hand hath made.

—By Annie Johnson Flint

I BELIEVE . . . IN GOD

(Apostle's Creed Series)

By Claude A. Ries

An intelligent woman was once asked by Dr. William Adam Brown, "Why do you believe in God?" She replied: "You would not understand me if I were to tell you. So far as I know myself, I have three reasons for believing in God: The light in some people's eyes; the sense of honor; and the joy which follows complete surrender to a cause that is greater than self."

Why do I believe in God?

I believe in God because He reveals Himself to me in the world without and to my heart within. Sensing the heavenly Father's forgiving smile, "nearer now is He than breathing, closer than hands or feet."

"I took a day to search for God,

And found Him not. But as I trod

By rocky ledge, through woods untamed,

Just where one scarlet lily flamed

I saw His footprint in the sod.

Then suddenly, all unaware,

Far off in the deep shadows, where

A solitary hermit thrush

Sang through the holy twilight hush—

I heard His voice upon the air.

Back to the world with quickening start

I looked and longed for any part

In making saving Beauty be . . .

And from that kindling ecstasy

I knew God dwelt within my heart."

God makes Himself real to my inmost being. Everyone craves for companionship. There are times when human companionships cannot satisfy our deepest longings. It is here we find God real. "My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God!" sobbed the Psalmist. And then he said, "This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and delivered him out of all his troubles." Yes, friends, "There are experiences in life so arresting and so significant that, apart from God, it is psychologically impossible for us to account for them."

Chesterton has compared God to the sun. While it is impossible to look into the sun, yet it is **in the light of that sun** that we are enabled to see everything. How cheap it is for anyone to belittle faith in God

Let us keep that God-consciousness in a continual glow, and we will see God's goodness everywhere, and will experience evidences of His divine presence at every turn.

Most assuredly, "I believe in God."—Wesleyan Methodist.

ALONE OR IN THE THRONG

"He called the name of that place Bethel"—Genesis 28:19.

"Jacob called the name of the place Peniel"—Genesis 32:30.

Isaac's sons were very different in charac-

ter and disposition. Esau grew up to be an outdoor man, an expert hunter, vigorous and bold, while Jacob became a quiet, home-keeping man, a herdsman and shepherd. Esau seems to have been good-natured, jovial and carefree; but with it all he was worldly, sensuous, and adventurous, an impulsive fellow bent on having a good time no matter at whose cost.

Jacob, although obsessed with a tendency to sharp practice, was a natural-born businessman, steadily and perseveringly moving onward with deliberate, settled purpose. Esau was indeed unworthy of the heritage which he legally possessed, and divine providences would doubtless sooner or later have seen to it that he did not receive the inheritance. But Jacob, with the aid of his mother, craftily connived to work out the matter so that he himself would obtain the blessing ordinarily belonging to Esau.

Almost immediately he found trouble and vexation of spirit. He had to flee for his life from his home, never to see his mother again.

In spite of these difficulties which Jacob unwisely brought upon himself, he did from time to time have some most encouraging visitations from the Lord. One of those occasions came soon after he left home and was en route alone to Mesopotamia. Fearful of the physical dangers which might beset him from wild animals and from unfriendly men, homesick and wondering just what the future might hold, he lay down upon the ground to rest one night. God came with a gracious promise and revelation, from which Jacob was never able to get away. Some twenty years later, while Jacob was enroute back to his homeland, God again came to him. Jacob was not then poor and alone. A prosperous man with flocks and herds, with a considerable family and servants, he was making his way back to the land of promise.

At the first visitation he was in the quiet and sublime solitude of the mountains, free and alone. At the second he was moving along the beaten highway, beset with responsibility and its incumbent cares. God is still ever anxious to make His presence known, both in the times of solitude and loneliness and in the busy hours of turmoil when we are engrossed with life's burdens and perplexities.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Have you been alone with Jesus

In communion sweet today?

Have you sought His blessed Presence?

Have you taken time to pray?

Have you had a time of quiet

Where, by eyes of men unseen,

You could know and feel Him present,

Nothing coming in between?

He delights when thus we meet Him,

And His blessed Spirit given

Fills our hearts with peace and gladness

Till it seems 'tis almost heaven.

Do not, then, His heart be grieving

By not taking time to pray;

If you seek Him, He will meet you

And go with you all the day.—Selected.