

## THE FULLNESS OF CAPABILITY

G. D. Watson

Many view it as a severe strain upon our feeble nature when God demands all the affections of the heart, all the thoughts of the mind, all the sensibilities of the soul, and all the volitions of the strength. God not only demands that we be religious, but entirely religious; that we be not only good, but universally holy; that we not only serve him, but nobody and nothing except him. This seems to be very exacting, and yet infinite mercy is expressed in this excessive demand.

The more completely we are devoted to Jesus in thought and word and act, the easier that devotion becomes. A ship under full sail and speed can be managed with twice the ease of one at half speed. It is partial service that makes painful service; it is half devotion that makes hard devotion. David reached a point in his devotion to God when he arose at midnight to have a season of prayer and praise. The chariot wheels of his soul rolled forward more smoothly than at any past period.

He who fashioned every atom and capability of our nature knows that in order to render our service delightful and easy, he must in very kindness to us demand every capability of our being. But nothing can bring out the fulness of our capability except being "filled with the Spirit." Inasmuch as God formed us for himself we never reach our true self until we are completely united to God. It is the fulness of the Spirit that brings out the full capabilities of the creature.

When the believer is filled with the Spirit two results are secure: first, the dross of inward sin is burned away, and, second, all the faculties and latent capacities of the soul are wonderfully opened and intensified in divine service. Our faculties, like the sails of a ship, need to be cleansed from rust and mildew, then hoisted unfurled and filled up to their measure by the gales of the Eternal Spirit.

Thousands of believers who are truly the servants of God are yet almost totally ignorant of their religious capabilities. Your capabilities for endurance, for faith, for vividness of spiritual understanding, for witnessing, for praying, for self-sacrifice, for intensity of love, for steady zeal and tireless works, you will never know nor dream of your capabilities in these things till you are filled with the Spirit and continue to get filled up to your measure.

When we are filled with the Spirit we then have the capability to bear or do anything that God wants us to.

There is an enormous waste of capacity lying unknown and idle in the Church. Often the very things that Christians shrink from, saying that they cannot do or suffer such things, are the very things they will gladly do and bear under the mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We do not know the virtue of the soil nor the latent seeds buried in it except by the fiery baptism of the summer sunshine.

Throughout Christendom you will hear ministers substituting culture for the Holy Spirit. On every hand you hear this: "I am trying to educate my people to pray in public or testify in class, trying to educate the young converts to speak and work for Jesus," and the like. What foolishness in God's eyes is this man-made wisdom.

The King's Highway

To be filled with the Spirit, to be drinking every day deeper and yet deeper of the nature of God will purify, adorn, and expand every God-given capacity of man.

"The victories won by prayer,

By prayer must still be held;

The foe retreats—but only when

By prayer he is compelled.

The precious blood of Christ, the crucified,

Gives victory when we pray, if in him

we abide."

## The Resourcefulness of Jesus

By Peter Wiseman

### A Lesson in Service

Jesus . . . took a towel (John 13:3-4)

The lesson here is the true greatness of service, the greatness of spirit in which great service is rendered. The Redeemer of mankind on His knees with a basin and towel washing the disciples' feet! Let angels look on! But let saints kneel in humility and seek for the privilege and honor of lowly service. The Saviour on His way to Calvary, stopping by the way to do a kindness, washing the "dusty, sandaled feet" of His followers!

In our modern day many expressions have found their way into usage. In the political world, "the man who will clean house," "the gentleman with a duster." Concerning a great statesman it has been said, "The gentleman with a sponger." He wiped off some debts. If David Livingstone was correct—and we believe he was—when he spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ as "The Gentleman who always kept His word," then we may humbly venture to speak of "The Gentleman with a towel!" Did He not use a saw and hammer as a Carpenter? Why not a towel? Is there not a dignity in labor?

Yes, true greatness stands out in doing in a splendid spirit the necessary thing, whether great or small, known or unknown. "Make me as one of thy hired servants," is a true spirit.

While I was walking along an unpaved sidewalk in a strange town, a little boy around the age of six, and his sister, a little younger than he, came out of an ice-cream dairy store with two big ice-cream cones in their hands. They walked but a very short distance when the little girl, evidently forgetting herself for the moment, tipped her hand. The ice cream fell out of the cone to the sidewalk. She stopped and looked down at the ice cream wishfully. The little fellow took in the situation immediately, stepped over to his sister, took the empty cone out of her hand and put his untouched ice-cream cone in hers instead. Then he reached down, picked up the ice cream, held it in his hand, and looked at it rather pathetically.

"Sonny," I remarked, "I would not eat that. How much did it cost you?"

"A nickel, sir," was the reply.

I gave him a nickel. He ran quickly back into the dairy and soon came out with a big, fresh, clean ice-cream cone. He looked up at me with a smile that said more than "Thank you." I looked at him and felt I could almost take a bite out of him; for his face looked somewhat like a big, full, ice-cream cone.

I walked on up to the church where I was to speak, and somehow I preached better that afternoon; and when I think of the inci-

## THE BOOKSHELF

Through the medium of this column we shall be recommending books and religious supplies which we feel would benefit our people and pastors. In this issue we submit our first recommendations.

Holiness Classics:

**THE CENTRAL IDEA OF CHRISTIANITY** by J. T. Peck (abridged by D. Shelby Corlett). One of the most outstanding holiness classics. Dr. Peck continually emphasizes that holiness is the underlying principle in scriptural content. A "must" for the preacher. **\$1.40.**

**CHECKS TO ANTINOMIANISM** by John Fletcher (abridged by Peter Wiseman). One of the most scholarly books written on the subject, it is both a defense of the Wesleyan concept of grace and a counterattack on what we term "eternal security."

If you are interested in the doctrine of eternal security, you should read this book. **\$2.20.**

Missionary Literature:  
**MIRACLE IN CAPE VERDE** by Basil Miller. This is the story of the Howards, Nazarene missionaries in the Cape Verde Islands. It is faith inspiring.

The Nazarene book catalogue evaluates it thus: "It is not extravagant to say that the story recorded in this book is a modern replica of the Acts."

The writer of this column, who has heard Everett Howard speak in person, was deeply impressed and greatly enriched by his message. **\$1.65.**

**THE AMAZING STORY OF DE ZHASER** by C. Hoyt Watson. "Sergeant Jacob De Shazer, one of General Doolittle's flyers who bombed Tokyo, was forced down over Japanese-occupied China, spent forty months in prison, was condemned to death, and later reprieved by Emperor Hirohito, was converted in prison, and after the war returned to his captors with the gospel of the love of Christ."

Dr. Nathan Beskin recommends this book highly. **\$2.20.**

Devotional Reading:  
**DEEPER EXPERIENCES OF FAMOUS CHRISTIANS** by J. G. Lawson. The purpose of the author is to show that great Christian leaders as Fox, Wesley, Finney, and others received a deeper experience through a second definite crisis of faith. This work should be widely read. **\$2.75.**

**NOT SOMEHOW BUT TRIUMPHANTLY** by Bertha Munro. Out of a deep understanding and concern for young people, Dean Munro points the way to spiritual victory. Every young person should read this book for profit and inspiration. **\$1.40.**

These books are available at prevailing prices through the agency of the Bethany Bookroom, Box 354, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

dent, I feel better. More than that, whatever may come into that little fellow's life, he will never forget that a man was kind to him in helping him out when he was in great difficulty—finding himself without an ice-cream cone! What I did cost me only a nickel in actual currency, and the remembrance of it has been to me worth millions.

Little deeds of kindness,

Little words of love,

Make this earth an Eden,

Like the heaven above!