

EDITORIAL

MY DESIRE TO BE LIKE JESUS

Desire plays an important part in the life of a Christian. To desire to be what God wants us to be, is noble and commendable. Our thoughts make us to be what we really are. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." That is the reason why a Christian cannot sin in thought. If we sin in thought then we are sinners. No Christian person can habitually sin in his thinking and be what God wants him to be. We might add just here that the reason most people fall into sin is because their minds are allowed to take in the suggestive talk or literature that they hear and see from day to day. We open our eyes and ears to the world and soon we find ourselves thinking evil. We should be very careful that we shut our ears and open our eyes only to that which is conducive to our spiritual growth.

The desire to be like Jesus means much more than we sometimes think. Firstly, to desire to be like Jesus means that we endeavour to get to know more about Him. The more we know about Him the greater will be our longing to be like Him. The song writer has put it thus:

"More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show,
More of His saving fulness see,
More of His love who died for me."

This is the outworking of an inward desire. We learn to appreciate Christ as we discover more about Him. Our desire to be like Him will be intensified as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Secondly, to desire to be like Jesus means that nothing else can come between us and Him. How many people glibly sing and talk about Jesus, yet are only partly won to Him. To desire, is to have our whole affection and interests set upon a certain thing or person to such an extent that all else takes second place. The set of our will is fixed. He only is our desire. Friends, family, fortune, all must be an after thought when it comes to desiring to be like Jesus. He must indeed be, "The lily of the valley, the bright and morning star, the fairest of ten thousand to our souls." Nothing between our souls and our Saviour is the proof of our desire to be like Him.

Thirdly, to desire to be like Jesus means that we have an all inclusive passion for Him. Desire cannot be desire until it has passion. Holy desire is alive with passion. Passion makes us to put into action the desire we have. Desire can be cold and formal until touched by the Spirit of God. It is the "Fire, Holy Fire" that burns within our souls that puts our desire into action. The Spirit of God gives the passion. It is the blaze that burns and burns until desire is satisfied with Him whom it has its heart set upon.

"O to be like thee, blessed redeemer,

This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures
Jesus Thy glorious like-ness to bear."

Is your desire to be like Jesus, the all consuming passion of your life? If it isn't it can be. The conditions are simple. Let Jesus Christ save and sanctify your soul in the Scriptural manner, and the Holy Spirit will put within your heart the desire and ability to be like Jesus. "When we see Him we shall be like Him."

I Resolve To:

Render unto God the things that are His:

Tithes, testimony, praise, love and service.

Evade things that would hinder me spiritually: Selfishness, self-security, self-satisfaction, sinful places.

Obey the voice of God when He speaks to me: Go, pray, give, preach, testify, and work for His cause.

Love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and my neighbor as myself. Also love His appearing!

Enrich my life by: Prayer, Bible-reading, attending the services, loving others. What about you?

J. D. BLACKMON

I LIKE PRAYER MEETING

I like a spirited prayer meeting

Where people pray and sing,

And often let the praises roll,

Till main and heaven sing.

The place where testimonies shine,

That tell of victories won;

Where a friendly, happy, sacred air

Gives peace to every one.

I plan to live a long, long time

With people just like this;

And loving them here, and over there,

Makes part of heaven bliss.

So count me with the prayer meeting crowd;

They're my folk, one and all;

And look for me on the other side,

When God's class leader makes His call!

—Paul Martin

Your life will be as high as your ideals. A man with high ideals cannot live on a low level, nor can he live on any level he reaches. If you have become satisfied with yourself, maybe your goal is not high enough. Among the most miserable people on earth are those who have their wagon hitched to their bedpost rather than to a star. If it is hitched to your bedpost, you have only to roll out of bed to reach it; but hitched to a star you have to do some climbing, and the climbing is difficult. This may be why the low lands are so crowded, while the hilltop population is so scarce. One of the greatest drawbacks to human society is the fact that so many choose to do the easy thing. The "take-it-easy" crowd are in the majority; you can find them in all walks of life—in the schoolroom, the office, the home, and the church. Christ advocated and commended a high ideal for us: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." You must do more than roll out of bed to reach this.

F. LINCICOME

A PRAYER TO SAVE US FROM A BAD DISPOSITION

Our heavenly Father, save us from what has been called "The vice of 'the virtues.'" We pray to be delivered from dispositional sins. We remember the words of one who said that, "An evil disposition manifested by a professed Christian does more harm in the end than anything that modernists or unbelievers can do."

We pray to save us from sensitiveness, irritability, fault-finding, peevishness, resentment and uncharitable attitudes. Grant that our influence will not be hindered in doing good by manifestations of ugly dispositional laws in our lives.

We pray to save the church from things that constitute a plague and pestilence. As some one said long ago: "It is time we Christians stopped trying to excuse our uncharitable and un-Christlike dispositions and frankly admit our failure to live as we should."

John Wesley said: "We will not injure the cause of Holiness by admitting our sins, but we are sure to do so by denying them."

We pray to save us from fighting for the faith once delivered to the saints and at the same time in living in such a way as to make it hard for our families to live with us.

While we stand against the liquor traffic and the tobacco trust, the movies and dirty literature, we pray that our temper may not be such as to keep our families and neighbors in terror of our acid tongues.

God grant that we may be saved from playing into the hands of the devil by acting in unspiritual and un-Christlike ways.

We thank thee that there is a remedy for dispositional sins. Help all of us to lay hold of it, through Christ, we ask in His name.—Amen.

A. S. LONDON

GOD'S MINORITIES

During the time Noah was building the ark, he was very much in the minority—but he won!

When Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers, he was a decided minority—but he won!

When Gideon and his 300 followers, with their broken pitchers and lamps put the Midianites to flight they were in an insignificant minority—but they won!

When Elijah prayed down fire from Heaven and put the prophets of Baal to shame, he was in a notable minority—but he won.

When David, ridiculed by his brothers, went out to meet Goliath, in size he was in a decided minority—but he won.

When Martin Luther nailed his theses on the door of the cathedral he was a lonesome minority—but he won.

When Jesus Christ was crucified by the Roman soldiers, He was a conspicuous minority—But He WON!

IF YOU PULL OUT DOUBTS BY THE
ROOTS YOU WILL LIKELY FIND SINS
AT THE END OF THEM.