

## Carvosso's Witness

The more I examined the Scripture the more convinced I was that without holiness there could be no heaven. Many were the hard struggles which I had with unbelief, and Satan told me that if I ever should get it I should never be able to retain it; but keeping close to the Word of God, with earnest prayer and supplication, the Lord gave me to see that nothing short of it would do in a dying hour and the judgment-day. Seeing this, it was my constant cry to God that He would cleanse my heart from all sin, and make me holy, for the sake of Jesus Christ. I well remember returning one night from a meeting with my mind greatly distressed from want of the blessing; I turned into a lonely barn to wrestle with God in secret prayer. While kneeling on the threshing-floor, agonizing for the great salvation, this promise was applied to my mind: "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." But like poor Thomas I was afraid to believe, lest I should deceive myself. O what a dreadful enemy unbelief is! Thomas was under this wretched influence only eight days before Jesus appeared to him; but I was a fortnight after this groaning for deliverance, and saying, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" I yielded to unbelief, instead of looking to Jesus and believing on Him for the blessing, not having then clearly discovered that the witness of the Spirit is God's gift, not my act, but given to all who exercise faith in Jesus and in the promise made through Him. At length, one evening, while engaged in prayer meeting, the great deliverance came. I began to exercise faith by believing "I shall have this blessing now." Just at that moment a heavenly influence filled the room; and no sooner had I uttered or spoken the words in my heart, "I shall have the blessing now," then refining fire went "through my heart, illumined my soul, scattered its life through every part, and sanctified the whole." I then received the full witness of the Spirit that the blood of Christ had cleansed me from all sin. I cried out, "This is what I wanted! I have now a new heart." I was emptied of self and sin, and filled with God. I felt I was nothing, and Christ was all in all. Him I now cheerfully received in all His offices: my Prophet to teach me, my Priest to atone for me, my King to reign over me. O what boundless, boundless happiness there is in Christ, and all for such a poor sinner as I am. This happy change took place in my soul March 13, 1772.—"Carvosso's Life"

The Spirit baptism will not make all believers evangelists; but it would make all influential witnesses for Christ in the field where God has called each to live and work. It would anoint the mother with power to train her family for the service of God. It would anoint the Sunday-school teacher with power to lead the class to love Jesus. It would enable the Sunday-school superintendent to be a mighty man of God in the Sunday school. It would make the deacon or the leader of the Endeavor society or the Epworth league a wonder of efficiency in service. The Church universal, baptized with the Spirit, would be resistless in its influence, and terrible in the march of conquest.

—A. H. Hills in "Holiness and Power."

"A pint of example is worth a barrel of advice."

## THE "EXTRA" OF JESUS

By Peter Wiseman

Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, said Jesus Christ, go with him twain (Matt. 5:41).

Everything about Jesus may be said to be an extra. He emptied himself. He stooped to the manger, came to a life of poverty, on to the cross of shame, and to death. He did it all for the human race, that we might not perish but have everlasting life. "He became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." His birth, His life, His service, His death, yes, and His resurrection, are extras.

Our Lord used a common practice of His day to press home a great principle. The practice among the Romans, that of the government, if in need, compelled man or beast or both to go a legal mile. Our Lord would have His followers to exceed legalism, to catch the great spirit and principle of Christianity, and go the extra mile; the extra in Christian principle, the extra in Christian experience, the extra in Christian service and sacrifice, the extra in faith, the extra in vision!

What need there is today for the Christian extra! While conducting services among the soldiers in Egypt, Dr. Stuart Holden asked a big sergeant in the Highland regiment, a soldier with a bright testimony for the Lord, how he was led to Christ. Here is his answer: "There is a private in the same company who was converted in Malta before the regiment came to Egypt. We gave that fellow an awful time. One night, a terribly wet night, he came in very tired and very wet, and before getting into bed he got down to pray. My boots were heavy with rain and mud, and I let him have one on one side of the head and the other on the other side; and he just went on with his prayers. Next morning I found those boots beautifully polished and standing by the side of my bed. That was his reply to me, and it just broke my heart: I was saved that day."

How much like the spirit of Jesus, and what a good illustration of the extra He would have us go!

### TRUST IN GOD AND NEVER FEAR

"I trust in thy word."—Psa. 119:42.

Just in proportion in which we believe that God will do just what He has said, is our faith strong or weak. Faith has nothing to do with feelings, or with impressions with improbabilities or with outward appearance. If we desire to couple them with faith, then we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith needs nothing of the kind. Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take Him at His word, the heart is at peace.

God delights to exercise faith, first for blessing on our own souls, then for blessing on the church at large, and also for those without. But this exercise we shrink from instead of welcoming.

Trials are the food of faith. Oh, let us leave ourselves in the hands of our Heavenly Father! It is the joy of His heart to do good to all His children.

But trials and difficulties are not the only means by which faith is exercised and thereby increased. There is the reading of the Scriptures, that we may by them acquaint ourselves with God.

Are you able to say, from the acquaintance you have made with God, that He is a lovely Being? If not, let me affectionately entreat you to ask God to bring you to this, that you

## Unconditional Surrender

Gipsy Smith was holding a meeting in Glasgow. He noticed a man who frequently attended the meetings. One night the man stayed until almost all the people had left. Gipsy Smith went to speak to him and, in his own words, gives the story of what he learned that night:

"You are concerned about your soul?" I asked.

"I am," he replied; and promptly I said, "You know what you have to do?"

"Yes, I do." This he said with conviction. I urged him to make surrender.

While talking with him, I discovered a gentleman near us who was listening. He came forward and asked, "Will you let me speak to this brother?"

I answered, "Yes," and he continued.

"I have heard part of the conversation, and I want to read you (turning to my friend in the pew) a text," and he read John 3:16. "Do you believe that?" he asked.

"Yes, of course, a Scotchman believes that."

The newcomer then read Romans 10:9: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved," and asked again, "Do you believe that?"

Next he read from John's Epistle, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," and asked, "You believe that, too?"

"Yes, I believe that."

"Then you are a Christian," said the man.

My friend straightened himself up and, looking at the man with the Bible, said, "You are wrong, my friend."

"Well, but you believe Christ died for you?"

"Yes."

"You believe He rose from the dead for your justification?"

"Yes."

"You believe He is able to save you?"

"Yes, right on the spot."

"Then you are saved."

"No, I am not."

"How do you make that out?"

"Well, you have read three passages; now, read Isaiah 55:7." The man with the Bible turned to the passage and read: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord."

"Now stop," said my friend, "I am the wicked man; I am the unrighteous man; and I have to forsake the sin and the wicked thought, and I must come back from my own way to God's way. In my heart is a sin. I am hugging it and am not willing to give it up. My own common sense tells me I cannot be saved until I surrender."

Gipsy Smith said, "That is the best sermon I ever heard on repentance in my life."—Sel.

may admire His gentleness and kindness, that you may be able to say how good He is, and what a delight it is to the heart of God to do good to His children.

Now the nearer we come to this in our inward souls, the more ready we are to leave ourselves to His hands, satisfied with all His dealings with us. And when trial comes, we shall say: "I will wait and see what good God will do to me by it," assured that He will do it.

Thus we shall bear an honorable testimony before the world, and thus we shall strengthen the hands of others.—George Mueller.