

By H. S. Dow

Exhortations from the Word:

"When men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad." "Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also?" "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for (not at) them which despitefully use you, and persecute you?" "Be ye therefore perfect?" "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them?" The words of Jesus in Matt. 5 and 7.

"Be kindly affectionately one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Do you rejoice when someone whom you don't like is rejoicing over success or victory? Why not? Do you weep when someone whom you do not like is weeping over some failure or loss? or do you rather feel glad in your heart? Do you say unkind things about others when they don't hear you, or back bite? or are you glad when others are honoured? The above scriptures are words of Paul, the apostle, in Romans 12.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." More words of Paul in I Thess. 5.

If you can keep your head, when all around you
Are losing theirs, and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
And make allowance for their doubting too.

If you can wait, and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies;
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet, don't talk too good, nor look too wise.

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken,
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools;
Or see the things you've given your life to broken,
And stoop, and build them up with worn-out tools.

If you can dream, and not make dreams your master,
If you can think, and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster;
And treat those two imposters just the same.

If you can make one heap of all your innings,
And risk it on one turn of pitch and toss;
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss.

If you can walk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings, nor lose the common touch;
If neither foe nor loving friend can hurt you,
If all men count with you, and none too much.

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew,
To serve their turn long after they are gone;
And so hold on when there is nothing in you,
Except the will which says to them, hold on!

If you can fill the unforgiving minute,
With sixty seconds worth of distance run;
Yours is the earth, and everything that's in it,
And, what is more, you'll be a man my son.

Kipling's Poem "If"

Can you do it?

"Everything that happens fits into a pattern for good" is Phillip's translation of Romans 8:28.

In Jesus Christ, everything is an opportunity. Everything can be turned from the worst into the best. Somewhere I read, "No man is safe unless he can stand anything that can happen to him."

Filthy rags can be made into beautiful paper. Annoying clay can be made into valuable pottery.

Bone-crushing pain can be made to yield sainthood of the very first rank.

Kagawa (of Japan) said, "Criticism, abuse, ridicule, slander, all these serve as polishing powder in the process of further burnishing the mirrow-like calm in my heart."

"All things work together for good. Not for prosperity, prosperity may not be good; not for happiness, happiness may be deceptive; but "everything fits into a pattern for good." God's aim is spotless character—sun tested character. He allots us our experience not to make us happy but to make us holy, not to cheer us, but to give courage to those passing a thousand years hence.

Let each Christian look upon the most trivial occurrences in the light of the possibilities which may flow from them. All incidents of life are under the control and supervision of our all-wise heavenly Father. His hand is at the controls of all the fires of persecution; His love enters into all our hours of pain; His wisdom knows just what experiences are best suited to produce gold of character for the eternal home.

For the Christian, happiness is to be found in the centre of the will of God. Whatever then is God's will should yield sweetness of spirit and a radiant life.

The Christian's contentment comes from what he is and from what he is becoming. If your contentment . . . comes from attention, praise, health, favorable circumstances, you are poor indeed, and on almost any day you may find you are a pauper. But he whose poise and contentment flows from being what God wants, and who is daily becoming more like the Divine pattern, nothing can disturb the inner serenity. Everything will fit into the pattern for good.

—The Wesleyan Methodist.

If we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all noble things are difficult. The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but the difficulty of it does not make us faint or cave in, it rouses us up to overcome it. Do we so appreciate the marvellous salvation of Jesus that we do our utmost for His highest.

—Oswald Chambers.

ARE YOU ABLE?

- "To suffer without complaining?
 - To be misunderstood without explaining?
 - To endure without breaking?
 - To be forsaken without forsaking?
 - To give without receiving?
 - To be ignored without grieving?
 - To ask without commanding?
 - To love despite misunderstanding?
 - To turn to the Lord for guarding?
 - To wait for His own rewarding?
- Love never fails. I Cor. 13."

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separating sin from our inmost selves. He takes sin out of our human selfhood, as it dwells in our members, and thus purifies our hearts, making us "free from sin" and to become in the fullest, truest sense "servants to God," love slaves, having our "fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

As all the evil things named by our Lord in Mark seven proceeded out of our uncleansed hearts, so holiness proceeds out of our cleansed and "in truth" sanctified hearts. Hallelujah! Now, beloved, if this is true—and to its truth and reality there live today hosts of witnesses, and the names of many whose lives have influenced their times in the past most effectively have also been definite witnesses, I say if this second work of grace meets the need in this second area of man's sin problem, then it is important with a degree of emphasis which makes its refusal sinful and its neglect dangerous. It is truly an essential part of the good news of the Gospel.

This second work of grace is indeed emancipation from the fear and fettering of an inward foe which in its nature weakens our souls and contributes to our defeat in living a persistent and consistent life as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. God never meant anyone to come into right relationship with Himself and then go out and lead the type of life that would honor and please Him, without being made pure within, filled with divine love and empowered by His own indwelling in this cleansed and purified temple. It is hard for a sick man to be well. Make a man holy (which is moral health), and he finds it easy to be holy and to live holy. Praise God!

"The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:73-75). Amen.

—American Holiness Journal

HOLY SWEETNESS

"He opened not His mouth."—Isaiah 53:7.

How much grace is required to bear a misunderstanding rightly, and to receive an unkind judgment in holy sweetness!

Nothing tests a Christian character more than to have something said about him. This is the file that soon proves whether we are electroplate or solid gold. If we could only know the blessings that lie hidden in our trials we would say, like David when Shimei cursed him: "It may be that the Lord will require me good for his cursing this day."

Some people get easily turned aside from the grandeur of their life work by pursuing their own grievances and enmities, until the life gets turned into one little petty whirl of warfare. It is like a nest of hornets: you may disperse them but you will probably get horribly stung and get nothing for your pains, for their honey is not worth a search.

May we receive more of the spirit of Christ, "Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again, but committeth Himself to Him Who judgeth righteously."—Heart and Life.

"The evidence of conversion is seen in character, not in profession."