

That Daily Cross

George D. Watson, D. D.
in "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

It is only after we are crucified to the carnal nature that we can bear our daily cross in the true spirit of our Master. It is by the denial or death of sinful self that we enter the state of perfect obedience in which the daily trials and crosses can be borne in deep fellowship with Jesus.

The very order of the words of our Saviour seems to indicate the steps of experience. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Here we have, first, crucifixion of the natural self-life; then the purified soul bears its daily sufferings and hindrances, which bring it into a constant walk and fellowship with Christ. It is this daily cross which leads the sanctified soul into a deeper death to self, according to its love and fervor of obedience.

What is our daily cross? It is that one or more things which are unavoidable in our lives, and which produce suffering of body, mind, or heart. It is that thing which in our poor judgment seems to hinder the easy flow of our religious life. Sometimes our cross may be composed of a combination of things, but as a general rule, it is some one instrument or cause of suffering to the soul. Were there no sufferings of some kind involved, there could be no cross at all, for the only thing in a cross is its pain.

The outward form of the daily cross may change with years, or the same cross may continue until death; but in some form it abides. It is as impossible for the true saint not to have some cross as it is to walk in the sunshine without having shadow. The Holy Ghost gives us to understand plainly that the multitudes of jolly, ease loving, and easy-going religionists who bear no daily suffering with Jesus are only sectarian-born religious bastards, and not really kingdom-born souls. (See Hebrews 12:8.)

It is your daily cross that makes you weep more than any other thing; that sends you to frequent prayer; that leads you to ransack the promises; that makes you cry out, like Jesus, "Father, why is this?" that causes you to put both arms around the neck of your Saviour in yearning love; that makes you sick of earth and self; that gives you wistful longings for heaven. Oh, precious old homely, daily cross! What deep, tender, far-reaching effects thou hast wrought through all these prayer-paved years!

There is a hallucination about getting free from our daily cross which needs to be broken. It is a daydream worked up in our minds, a beautiful vision that hangs just ahead of us, that some day we will be rid of our cross, that we shall have no painful annoyances, and then our feet can fly unimpeded toward heaven.

Alas! that so many saints should get their eyes set on this will-o'-the-wisp dream. If you want deep union with Jesus, getting rid of your cross is the very thing to defeat it. There is a better victory than freedom from the daily instrument of pain, and that is to pass into that ocean depth of the Christ-life where every trial can be borne in exactly the same spirit that Jesus bore his trials.

Boundless, tender love is the condition for triumphant bearing of our daily cross. When our cross has driven us so deep into the warm heart of Jesus that we are kept melted and flooded with quiet, lowly, tender, yearning love for God and his kingdom, then the cross will have proved its own balsam, and every trial will be fuel to the flame of love.

To love the cross is understood by only a few Christians. People fancy it means loving the cross on which Christ died. No, it means loving that very cross in our lives that drives us into deep oneness with Christ. It is to meekly, patiently, lovingly embrace to our inner heart

The King's Highway



REPORT FROM BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE BOARD

On May 22, 1959 at Barker's Point, N. B. the alliance voted to purchase the military buildings available in Sussex and move Bethany Bible College to this new location. As all our people know, the buildings have been purchased. It quite naturally follows that many have taken for granted that Bethany's doors will open at Sussex on September 16th. However, considerable time elapsed before the keys were available and we had the right to possess the buildings. Following this the Board was confronted with the problem of heating enough of the buildings to house the School. The proposition presented by the government was too expensive for our budget. To make the necessary alterations to the property, and to make a satisfactory installation of adequate equipment to provide heat would require more time than is left before the opening date of the School. Therefore, the Board has deemed it advisable to carry on for another year in our present location at Yarmouth, N. S. This will provide us with ample time to prepare our new facilities for occupancy in a fitting manner.

The Board and the Administration of Bethany Bible College appeal to all our people for their continued support of this vital branch of our ministry. Let us give generously and pray faithfully that Bethany might have another year of progress.

Sincerely in Christian service,
H. R. Ingersoll,
Chairman, Bethany Bible College
Board

the very principle of self-abnegation and self-nothingness. It is often the case that devout Romanists wear haircloth and iron or knotted cords next to their skin. All that is too superficial; it does not enter deep enough. Jesus did no such foolish thing. To bear our daily trial as Jesus did, we must take it into our very heart's love, and bear it meekly, quietly, lovingly, as unto God, and not to man.

How long it takes to accept our daily trial as a gift direct from the hands of our Lord's His eyes are on us; he notices our inner feelings, thoughts, and choices as to our cross. The spirit in which we bear our trials here will mark the grade of our standing in the world to come. It is by persevering prayer that we get on the sunny side of every sorrow, and on the triumphant side of every trial.

It is the sharp grain of sand cutting its way into the oyster that is enveloped with the life-juices of the creature and turned into a pearl. So our daily cross, cutting its way into our life's core by being folded round and round with many tears and loving prayers, becomes in our souls the very pearl of Christlikeness, and more valuable than all our own chosen blessings. The Holy Ghost can reveal to us the very disposition in which Jesus bore his daily trials, and when we bear ours in the same spirit, then indeed do we have fellowship with him.

If it does not please our Father to remove our trials, it is because he wants us to seek and receive an overflow of tender love that will bear us on over the trials and in spite of them. Pure, limitless love is the only true victory over trial. Intense love for Jesus is the only water that can make our thorny cross ripen its fruit; so do not cut down your cross, but water it with more love and prayer, and wait for its golden apples.