



## THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

by E. A. Ferguson

continued from last issue

### THERE IS A MORAL AND SPIRITUAL BEAUTY

Forged into these words are the noblest, the ripest, and the ultimate conceptions of beauty, for while it begins in the physical, it ends in the spiritual.

The sensation of beauty is not merely sensual or intellectual, but is dependent on a pure, right state of the heart. To apprehend it most delightfully, we must cultivate the moral and the spiritual nature. The beautiful is ever related to the true and the good. And this is the charge we bring against what is called "Modern Aestheticism." It is of the earth, earthy, and degrades the sense of beauty into the servant of lust. Strip these pretentious reformers, these apostles of beauty, of their disguises, and they simply offer sensualism instead of purity, and unbelief instead of faith in God and immortality. Life is robbed of its spiritual meaning. The presence of the higher—the spiritual—element is essential to the perfection of beauty; and if we would be arrayed in loveliness, we must put off sin, and put on that grace which is inward, spiritual and eternal.

Question number two. This brings us to THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS. This is the queen among queens, upon whose brow the crown of crowns rests in regal fitness. All beauty centers in God.

What is the beauty of holiness?

#### 1. It is the beauty of moral health.

Holiness, means a state of wholeness, completeness, as when the body is in perfect health. The Greek conception of manhood was that of a handsome, strong, perfectly healthy body. The beauty of holiness is the beauty of fully restored soul health. Sin entered humanity, and disease by sin; and unless there be the quickening of a new life, a change going down to the deep center of our personal being, the end thereof is death.

The believer is quickened together with Christ. He is born of God, regenerated by the Holy Ghost, created anew in righteousness and true holiness. He is, in a sense, holy. But there are the remains of sin—"roots of bitterness"—that tempt him—evil passions and desires ready to start forth in an unguarded moment; and he feels the need not only of forgiveness, but of thorough cleansing. The great purpose of the atoning work of Christ is to remove the corruption and disease of sin, and give health of heart and life.

#### 2. It is the beauty of purity.

Purity is freedom from sin, from foulness, and from the presence and pollution of sin. When we speak of the purity of the rose, the purity of the crystal, the purity of the stars, and the purity of the light, we get the idea and thought of spiritual purity. Heart purity is something more than mere regeneration.

When we sing that old song:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains,"

there is no literal application of the Blood, no literal plunging into a fountain, etc. The Blood is the life and it symbolizes His sacrificial death. The Blood to atone, and the Spirit to sanctify.

Faith leads us to accept it and to open our hearts, and thus we are purified.

The King's Highway

## THANK YOU

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE  
AND MAKE THIS  
PRAYER

of

THOUGHTFUL THANKSGIVING

For sunlight hours and visions clear,  
For all remembered faces dear,  
For comrades of a single day,  
Who sent us stronger on our way,  
For friends who shared the year's long road  
And bore with us the common load,  
For hours that levied heavy tolls,  
But brought us nearer to our goals,  
For insights won through toil and tears,  
We thank Thee, Keeper of our years."

—Unknown

Regeneration is great, but purity of heart sweeps us into the heavenlies, to where there are no more evil tempers, wrath, pride, malice, envy, self-will and other fleshly lusts.

How can one sin while he abides in that presence which transforms and assimilates into His own likeness? His blood cleanses from all sin.

#### 3. It is the beauty of repose.

No great work of art can be perfect without it. This is one of the great characteristics of the beauty of holiness, it is the beauty of soul rest; rest from sin, actual and acquired; from guilt and pollution.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." Perfect peace, perfect repose. It is that which anchors the soul when the storms are raging and those contemptible enemies of the soul—pride the usurper; ambition, the desperado; envy, the murmurer, and hate, the murderer—are prowling around.

These enemies have been cast out, and, thank God—we do not have to let them in again. What an unspeakable calm in the soul where self has been dethroned and Christ enthroned! How our peace flows like a river!

#### 4. It is the beauty of symmetry.

By this is meant the beautiful equipoise of soul, or that divine supernatural naturalness that gives the easy, ball-bearing carriage and reciprocal balance like the boughs on opposite side of a tree. This is the beautiful grace of soul, the gyroscopic movement that holds all together and moves on in sweet harmony, well rounded, well developed, and full orbbed in every sense of the term.

(To be Continued)

HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR  
BETHANY THIS WEEK?