



Though it may have been his characteristic weakness, doubt neither began nor ended with Thomas. Doubt, which has plagued man's mind from the very inception of the human race, still seeks to isolate man from God.

Doubt is a robber; it steals peace of mind and life-giving faith, leaving mental turmoil and cold cynicism. Ultimately doubt robs one of hope. It leaves life with no meaning. Doubt is negative, tearing down. Yes it is possible to replace one set of beliefs for another, but doubt is never completely quieted until one is left faithless.

Contrast Isaiah's testimony, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee," to James' description of the wavering man, "... like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed."

David recalls one of his battles with doubt in Psalm 73. Doubt gained entry through envy (v. 3). How subtle! "Everyone's having an easier time than I" (v. 4-12). "In fact, it looks as though I'd be better off if I'd never become a Christian" (v. 13, 14). "Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper?" The yearning for material prosperity and personal ease blinded David's eyes to the total picture of life. He found victory only when he focused his vision once again on God (v. 17). Only then did he regain his faith and remember its accompanying blessings.

When doubt seeks entry through envy, read Psalm 73, then turn to Psalm 37 for David's antidote:

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers ...
Trust in the Lord ...
Delight thyself also in Him ...
Commit thy way unto the Lord ...
Rest in the Lord ...
Wait on the Lord ...
And the Lord shall help and deliver ... because (you) trust in Him."

DRIVING WITH OIL

I wanted to drive an iron bar through a piece of timber. I bored a hole of the right size, but the bar was rusty, and the hole was rough. I made slow progress, and was beginning to split the wood. Then I thought of the oil can. I oiled the bar; I poured oil into the hole; a few blows of the hammer sent the iron into its place. The oil had not diminished the size of the bar, or enlarged that of the hole. It had only relieved the friction. A few drops of oil were more effective than many blows of the hammer.

How slow some good people are to learn this. They are intensely earnest, and even morbidly conscientious. Everybody ought to see it just as they do, and whoever does not is hammered at without mercy. Such zeal excites friction. Men will not appreciate the truth when they are repelled by the spirit in which it is presented. Let the reformer be careful to have plenty of oil. Let him speak the truth in love.—Rest and Reaping.

DECENT but not DYNAMIC

By Avis Moore

These words were spoken by one of our outstanding evangelists in the church during a revival service. "Decent but not dynamic!" What a challenge they present to the Christian who is just drifting along, doing little for the cause of Christ and the salvation of lost souls!

These words have been ringing in my mind ever since I heard them. I pray God that He will never let me get away from them or the challenge they present. Ever since the Lord saved me I have tried to be decent but not always dynamic. We can be decent without much effort, but it takes God to make us dynamic Christians.

Perhaps you have some idea of the meaning of these words, but let me give you Webster's definition of each word. The word decent means respectable, good enough, or fairly good. Do these words describe a true follower of Christ? Indeed they do not. Can any sincere Christian be content to merely be decent? I hope not. Christ was never found idle while souls were in need. He was always alert to the needs of those about Him. We can do no less.

To be dynamic is to be energetic, active, and forceful. To be dynamic we must be the opposite of slothful, indifferent, and unconcerned. We must be doing something to build the kingdom of Christ. How much more could be done if every Christian could comprehend the true meaning of the word dynamic as applied to Christian living!

To be dynamic Christians, first we must pray. Prayer is the source of a Christian's energy, and energy is essential to be an active Christian. If we pray we will not be inactive. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit, then be obedient. If we do this, our lives will be forceful and the results will be tremendous.

Let us not be content to be just decent, but let us be dynamic, aggressive followers of Christ always abounding in the work of the Lord!

—Herald of Holiness

HOME MISSION FINANCIAL RECEIPTS

December-February

Yarmouth	70.00
Lower Brighton	30.00
Saint John	25.00
Barker's Point	50.00
George Justason	25.00
Truro	49.75
A Friend	5.00
Houlton	6.25
North Head	25.00
Perth	25.00
Fredericton	200.00
W. K. Trafton	50.00
Saint John	30.32
Blissfield	10.00
Salem	25.00
Fredericton	100.00
Moncton	35.00
Dooktown	10.75
Beals	150.00
Jonesport	37.50
Personal Gift	5.00
Head of Millstream	17.50
Fort Fairfield	27.37
Wood's Harbour	12.00
Woodstock	60.00
Royalton	6.00
Gospel Jets	360.00
Port Maitland (H. M. Rally)	31.00
Sandford (H. M. Rally)	34.00
A Friend	5.00
Sussex	36.00
Amherst	15.00
Mrs. Ruth Tidd	5.00
Wood's Harbour	20.00
Seal Cove	150.00
Westchester	20.00
Bloomfield	20.00
Houlton	12.25
Gospel Jets	25.00
A Friend	5.00
Moncton	135.00
Barker's Point	50.00
U. S. Premium	5.72
TOTAL	\$2,011.13

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