

# Victory in Jesus

*by*  
***Kathryn***  
***Kuhlman***



Table of Contents:

Foreword

Prayers God Hears

Now Is The Time

Day By Day

Confident Rest

Temptation

Snares and Pitfalls

Other Dangers

God, Our Provider

Holiness

Mere Religion

Feelings

With Your Eyes On Jesus

Let It Shine

The Secret

\*\*It isn't what happens to you that is so important. It's what you do with that thing after it happens that determines the result'

Kathryn Kuhlman

## Foreword

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' gift to His church, is changeless; and God's purposes are never disappointed or defeated. Kathryn Kuhlman's earthly ministry ceased with her death in 1976; but countless lives are still being touched for God through her books and the many radio tapes that she prepared in her lifetime.

Again and again she acknowledged her nothingness and that every miracle that took place in her meetings—from the healing of physical bodies to those who found Christ as Savior—was a direct result of the power of God.

For many years her inspired and down-to-earth heart-to-heart talks over nearly one hundred radio stations proved to be a rich fountain-head of nourishing spiritual food relating to everyday living. The might and life-changing power of these messages has not diminished with the passing of time.

After carefully reviewing her taped subject matter, this series titled "Victory in Jesus," was chosen for print. In addition, we have included an earlier publication, "The Lord's Healing Touch."

It is our intent to bring to you, the reader, the impact of Kathryn Kuhlman's anointed words. Thus we pray that the following chapters shall be a source of blessing. Holy Ghost inspiration and a challenge to encourage you to a new and higher level of the victorious Christian life.

Marguerite Hartner The Kathryn Kuhlman Foundation

### Prayers God Hears

I feel compelled to touch lightly on the subject of prayer before I begin this series on how to live victoriously; but first may I share with you a letter I received from Northridge, California.

"For the first time last night, I accidentally turned on your television program and I was so emotionally glued to every word you said that I thought and thought about the program and your comments all day long.

"I had heard of you several years ago when a friend purchased your book, I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES, and since that time I had forgotten your name. But last night it was quite an experience for me to see you and your guests. I was deeply touched by the lady who went through such turmoil with the little son who had the club foot. In fact, as I already stated, I thought about it all day long.

"It seems I have had just one thing after another in my own life: illness, financial troubles, family problems, etc. Yes, I'm a firm believer in prayer, but I have prayed so long. I have prayed so hard for many things that seem to never come true, and I so often wonder if God hears me.

"I'm writing to you, Miss Kuhlman, to explain to me just what you meant by praying to God. The lady on your telecast said that she realized that she had been praying wrong. This is the part I didn't understand. She went on to say that the day her son walked, she was talking to God and didn't realize that her son had walked across the floor. Now I'm wondering if I am praying wrong. Would you please, Miss Kuhlman, take a minute and tell me how to pray?

\*Thank you so much for a most inspirational half-hour. I will look forward to it every Sunday evening." . . .and the woman signed her full name and gave her address.

The other day during one of our radio broadcasts, a man and his wife were talking. His wife had received a wonderful healing, a real miracle. The gentleman himself was telling of a physical healing he had received, and then he turned to me and said something I shall never forget. His eyes were brimming with tears as he spoke, "But the greatest thing of it all, greater than any physical healing, was the fact that you taught me how to pray!"

As long as I live, I shall remember that man's words, and remember the look on his face when he made the statement—"But the greatest thing of all, you taught me how to pray !\*\*

Consider something. Prayer is the greatest power God has given to you and me. There is no greater power that God has given to any human being than the power of prayer; but there can be no real praying and you cannot know how to

pray until first of all you realize that wonderful relationship that you have with God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is much more than \*saying\* prayers. You would be amazed how many people write to me and say, "Will you please send me that prayer that you prayed?" Prayer is something that comes from deep on the inside of one. Nothing has been written out. Nothing has been memorized. That is not real praying to say something that someone else has written. In a very simple way, even while I am talking to someone, I may close my eyes, and often with my eyes open I begin to pray. A printed prayer can sometimes help you become God conscious or create an attitude of prayer, but that is not really praying.

In order to make this as simple as I possibly can, you must realize that prayer involves a relationship with God. The fact that God is our creator is one thing that all human beings have in common. Not everyone, however, has taken advantage of that glorious relationship when God becomes more than creator—that moment when He becomes one's Heavenly Father. This relationship must begin by accepting Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, as Personal Savior.

Therefore, not everyone can come into His presence and say, "Father, my Heavenly Father," because God does not become one's Heavenly Father and there cannot be that relationship except there be that born again spiritual experience first, accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. Once you have had that spiritual experience, accepting Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross, reaching out and accepting Christ as Savior by faith, you can be sure that you are now God's child. It's not complicated at all. Simply look up and say, "Wonderful Jesus, I accept for myself that which You did for me on the cross/\* and because God's Word promises that "him that Cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), the transaction is done —it's complete. From that instant, you can have that wonderful relationship where God, your creator, is your Heavenly Father.

I'm sure you would not say that you found it difficult to come into the presence of your earthly parent and converse with your father or mother. I shall never forget my relationship with my Papa. If you know me well, you are aware that

of all the human beings that I have known, my relationship with Papa was the greatest. When I was a child, I would hang on him, I would love him! Mama would say to me, "Stop hanging on Papa!" He was still carrying me when my legs were so long they would drag on the pavement. He would no sooner get home each evening, put his coat in the closet, before I was hanging on him. He had no chance to wash his hands or comb his hair. He would sit down to rest a minute and I was on his lap, my arms around his neck, chattering, my words coming so fast. Mama would try again, "Kathryn, Papa is tired. Just sit down and be quiet."

But I couldn't! There was so much to talk about, so much had happened and I had to tell Papa everything. Papa had to know. I knew that Papa wanted to know. There wasn't a thing that happened that day that I didn't tell Papa. There never was a person that was easier to converse with than Papa. It was so natural. When something happened, instinctively I would think, "I must tell Papa."

Perhaps that is why my relationship with the Heavenly Father is real and very personal. I never memorized anything to tell Papa. It came spontaneously, and that's the way it is with my Heavenly Father.

There must be the knowledge of that relationship between yourself and your Heavenly Father, and when you talk to Him, you must be conscious of His power. He is all-powerful, and not only that. He is concerned about every detail in that life of yours. I wish I had the vocabulary and the ability to help you understand that He is interested in you as an individual. Your needs, your troubles, your heartbreaks are His concern. When those tears roll down your cheeks. He sees those falling tears and He is interested. In the midnight hour when you feel there isn't a soul who cares, the family is asleep and you feel so all alone; you can hear the breathing of the one next to you or you can hear the restlessness of the child in the next room: remember, God is there, closer to you than the next beat of your heart.

You may be a mother whose son is in the military service thousands of miles away. In your home in that midnight hour, you may be praying a prayer for his

protection. God will not only hear that prayer that you are praying, but He is concerned about that boy of yours and He will put a wall of fire around that son. He will give His angels charge over that boy. He will not mock the desire of your heart. He will not turn a deafened ear to the cry of your soul, I promise you. He loves you. He is concerned about you, your loved ones and your needs.

You who are so steeped in sin can know victory and a new life although you have tried everything under God's heaven to bring about your deliverance. There is a God who is concerned and He is waiting for you to come into His presence through Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, to pray that prayer of confession. He will set you free if you really want to be set free, and you really want deliverance. When we come before the Father's Throne, we have a great Mediator, we have a High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He made one thing very clear: that He was leaving us His Name to use (John 16:23, 24). All that we have to do is present His Name before the throne of God and we have a hearing. We know that God sees us as perfect and righteous and holy through the person of His Son. He also hears our prayer when we come in the Name of Jesus. Any man, any woman who will come before the throne of God and into His presence through the person of His only begotten Son, Jesus, will have a hearing.

Finally, there is the Holy Spirit, the mighty power of the Trinity, who is here on this earth to do the Father's bidding, to do what Jesus would do were He here in person (John 16:13, 14). In that moment when we come in the Name of Jesus before the Father's throne, God hears us and He gives the nod to the Holy Spirit who does the work and brings to pass the answer to our prayers.

With every atom of my being, I pray

that the Holy Spirit will have taught you the simplicity of prayer, and that He has made the presence and power of Jesus a reality to your soul.

Now is the Time

This series of messages on living victoriously can be very profitable to you, for it is a matter vitally important to ALL who are Christians; and what I have to say is surely good old-fashioned Missouri cornbread. It is not stiff nor fancy, but good for you. Try to forget that it is Kathryn Kuhlman who is having this little heart-to-heart talk with you. Keep your mind and your heart open to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. Never forget this very simple fact, one that is often overlooked: the only time that we can live a Christian life is NOW. Right now! If you forget everything else that I may say to you, remember this simple but vitally important fact. NOW we are alive. NOW is the time for opportunities. NOW is that challenging moment. It is easy to procrastinate and put off until tomorrow or next week what we should do today. We can look ahead to that time when life is almost over and think that is when we will prepare to meet God and make provision for Eternity. My friend, it is NOW!

In the riches of divine grace, our Heavenly Father has made a wonderful provision for constant, consistent and unbroken victory on the part of everyone of His children, a victory that is unaffected by circumstances, however depressing or extreme they may be. This gift of God's grace in large measure is unaccepted however: partly because of ignorance as to its nature and value, and also on the ground of its terms, for its terms require a surrender which the average Christian is unwilling to make.

Things gotten cheaply are usually 'cheap,' you know. The things that are costly are usually the treasures that are most valuable and which we appreciate most. One of the most extraordinary things about the victorious life is that although it is clearly taught in the scriptures, it is frequently unrecognized by Bible students. That is something that has been very difficult for me to understand. And why is it that so many men in our pulpits today, so many of our seminary students, so many of our spiritual leaders have not recognized this wonderful life of unbroken victory with the Lord Jesus Christ? You may have a thorough knowledge of the Bible yet know nothing of this truth experimentally. And the fact still remains that you cannot give to someone else more than you have experienced yourself. If only you can catch the glory of the truth that I am trying to give to you regarding the victorious life, then you will possess a measure of God's grace that will revolutionize and change your entire spiritual



life. It has been one of the greatest truths that it has been my privilege to receive from the Master.

Perhaps you are saying, **\*\*But you do not understand my circumstances. If you only knew the trials that I face, if you had to live with my husband, if you had a son and daughter like my son and daughter, if you had to put up with neighbors like my neighbors, if you had to work where I work . . . then you would not be able to say there is a place in the Lord Jesus Christ where you can have constant victory and be happy.\*\***

I understand more perfectly than you think, my friend. But, I am not looking to that godless husband of yours, or to those trying teen-agers at your house, or those neighbors of yours, or the folk with whom you have to work. I am still looking to Jesus, and we have His prom-

ise which guarantees that we can be not only conquerors but MORE than conquerors over all these things, over all circumstances, over every difficulty (Romans 8:37). Not through our own efforts are we more than conquerors; but through Him, through the Lord Jesus Christ. To me that is thrilling and wonderful.

I am convinced that some folk really do not know how to live a daily consistent, victorious Christian life. Remember something: as Christian believers, we are not only living a spiritual life, but there is the physical aspect of life, too. No one can deny that this spiritual life is marvelous; but remember, after you have been born again and after you have had that wonderful experience of having been filled with the Holy Spirit, you must never lose sight of the fact that you are still in a body of flesh, in an old material world. Your neighbors have not changed, the folk with whom you work have not changed, and the enemy of your soul has not been converted. You find that you still have to work for a living, you have to eat, you have to sleep, you have the same husband or you have the same wife, and the same children. You may wish that you could cancel out the needs of the flesh, but you cannot. Sometimes I think that we get so carried away with the ecstasy of our spiritual experience that we expect even the things of the natural man to have changed, including our neighbors and family

members.

Then, when we come to the realization that they have not changed, we start working on them; but not with God-given wisdom! And we cannot understand why they do not see things the same way that we see them, and we try to force our experience upon them. Oh, for wisdom, for divine wisdom! Make that a part of your daily prayer the very moment you open your eyes in the morning. Unfortunately, it is usually the folk who need wisdom most who do not see their lack of this divine gift.

I repeat. We are not only living a spiritual life but a bodily life. We are in a world with troubles and heartaches and sorrows. We are in the world—not of it—but we are still in the world. We must deal with a bodily life whether we like it or not, and a very large part of our time and interest is taken up with things which concern the body.

### Day By Day

Now do not be misled into believing that this thing of victory is obtained once for all, a summit that is reached from which nothing can dislodge us. It is not something that you get all at once and then you sit back and rest in it, pull in your oars and say. Well, I've gotten a good dose of it now. I've been injected with this thing of victory and it is a once for all proposition!

It isn't like that at all! The very moment that simple faith is lost, in that moment is the victory over sin broken. And the sooner that you and I understand this fact, the better off we will be. If you are one of God's children, if you have been born again, if you are 'a Christian, then more than anything else you should desire this glorious victory. You yearn for victory over discouragement, the victory over sin, the victory over the enemy of your soul, the victory over temptation. There is nothing more thrilling than to live a consistent Christian life, moment by moment, with peace of mind and peace of soul.

I am not telling you that there will not be deep waters or troubles or problems. You see, I am so aware that we are a part of humanity, that there will be problems so long as we are in the flesh, that there will be troubles. Not only are

there troubles, but the Word of God assures us of tribulations. I have them, and you have them, too. I don't care how deeply spiritual you may be this very hour, I still promise you that so long as you are a part of humanity, and you are in this flesh and still living in this world, there will be problems. You will have troubles. And that is the reason why I always say: "No matter what those troubles are, no matter what your discouragements might be, as long as God is still on His throne and hears and answers prayer (and you will remember that I never stop there. The whole responsibility is not God's. The next part is also vitally important) . . . and as long as YOUR FAITH IN HIM is still intact, everything will come out all right!"

You know, so many of us like to put the whole responsibility on God and all we see is the bigness of God. That's thrilling and I could not agree more wholeheartedly. He is still God Almighty.

His promises are true and they work. He has all power in heaven and on earth. He holds the key to every problem in that life of yours, but it is a two-way proposition : His part and your part. Your part is to have faith in Him, to have faith in His promises and belief that He will keep those promises. It is up to you to maintain a moment by moment walk of faith. Then, as long as your faith in Him and in His promises remains intact, you can say: All things work together for good (Romans 8 :28). Then you know that you have victory in Christ. Then there will be peace of mind at all times, victory over temptation and over sin.

Sometimes I think that we feel we will forever rest on that wonderful summit, away up there on Pisgah's lofty mountain peak. Yes, it is a wonderful moment when God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we have passed from death unto life and we know that He has become our Heavenly Father, that we have entered into that relationship of father and child. But do not be deceived into believing that there will no longer be temptations, that there will be no moments of depression.

The victorious life is not something which is obtained once for all. This life of victory is secured through a moment by moment faith. There IS constant victory for the believer, but only so long as he trusts Christ entirely, and only for so

long. The moment that simple faith is lost, then is victory over sin broken. There must be that moment by moment, that day by day simple faith in Christ. That is why our Lord seems to sum up sin in just one word: unbelief. And the Scripture says, 'The Holy Spirit, when he is come, will convict the world of sin ... of sin, because they believe not on me' (John 16:8, 9). And this is exactly why John writes: 'This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith' (I John 5:4).

So, what is the victory that overcomes the world? FAITH! Since we are conscious of the fact there is no such thing as a once for all victory, it is evident that we must constantly be on guard because this earthly life is beset with perils. Or, to be strictly accurate, we must ever allow the peace of God to guard our hearts (Philippians 4:7). I once read of a man — an ordinary laborer—who used to quote that little verse in this way, "A PIECE of God shall guard your heart."

I cannot argue with him. His idea was right. It is the indwelling Christ, the Son of God, who does this thing for us.

A long time ago, I came to the conclusion that defeat and not victory is the sad inscription which could be written over the life of many a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. I meet them every day and I am sure you do, too. They wear a long face and it is evident that there is no victory and no real spiritual vitality there. If you are in their presence too long, their attitude begins to 'rub off' on you and you almost become depressed yourself. There is nothing gloomier than a professing Christian who is living in defeat.

The Word of God declares, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). He will not give you strength today for tomorrow's trials. Never. It is a day by day proposition. He will give you strength for today and for the difficulties that come to you today.

When I awaken in the morning, I have this confidence, I have this assurance, I have this security: that no matter what happens to me today, I know my Lord and my God will give me strength for what comes to me during those hours. Now, if I knew when I awaken in the morning everything that I would have to

face in the next twenty-four hours, it would discourage me before I ever started out. I couldn't stand it. I couldn't take it. If I knew the disappointment that would come to my doorstep, or all the work that I would have to do, I would be tired before I began the day. If I had a preview of everything that was involved in the next eighteen to twenty hours, I would be tempted to crawl back in bed again, pull the cover over my face and say, I cannot take it!

But, I do not know what I will be faced with during those hours of that day. Yet, I go out secure. How? I leave with a trust and a confidence in my heart and in my mind that as that day, so will God supply the strength for that day. I have lived lo, these many years, without having a breakdown. People have nervous breakdowns when they try to see beyond that day. You cannot do it and be victorious. If right now I would stop and think of what my calendar looks like; if I were to visualize all my commitments on that calendar, all the services I have scheduled, all the telecasts and radio broadcasts I need to make, all the sermons I must preach .... If I would picture the load of daily mail before me, and all the prayer requests that await my attention on my desk, I would be defeated instantly and I might just as well say. Let somebody else take over for me! But, I just don't do it. That is the reason I have never had a nervous breakdown. If you are on the verge of a breakdown, it's because you are trying to live more than one day at a time, more than one moment at a time. To live a victorious Christian life, do not cross the bridge until you get to that bridge. Do not ford those deep waters until you get to the brink of the stream. Do not lie awake at night and worry about that thing that you are going to have to do the next day. If you do, you will be so tired and such a nervous wreck the next day that when you face that task, you will not have the refreshed mentality or the rested body to do a good job.

So, go to bed and sleep and commit that thing to God. That's perfect trust. That's perfect confidence. That's where your faith in Him comes in. You sleep. If anybody is going to do the worrying, let God stay up and worry. Commit it to

Him. If anybody has to work during the night, let God work so that when you awaken in the morning and you have to face that task, you are refreshed mentally and spiritually.

How in the world do you think I keep going? I do not believe anyone knows how much work I put out in one day, how long are my hours, or everything that I do. I could not be doing the work that I am doing if I did not live and practice the very things that I am telling you now.

If I have upset your theology a little by what I have said, let me remind you that if you have been taught one thing and the Bible says something different, the Bible is always right. If I say something and it is contrary to what is in the Bible, the Bible is right. If your church teaches something that is contrary to what the Bible says, the Bible is the very Word of God and it is absolute authority.

Now this thing of living the Christian life is simple, so simple that sometimes I think we feel the necessity to make of it a hard thing, when in reality it is something that should be very natural. The Christian life is the natural way to live. By this I do not mean that it is easy living a daily consistent Christian life; yet, it should not be a struggle and it will not be a life of struggle if you know how to live that life in Christ Jesus. A Christian should be the happiest person in the world, and you will be exactly that if you learn how to live this life of victory.

### Confident Rest

Now that you have launched into this glorious new walk with Christ, consider some of the dangers that beset a life of holiness, this life of constant victory. There is such a thing for the Bible teaches it, and you must accept it if you believe the Word of God. But what are some of the hazards that challenge this wonderful life that the Word of God makes plain?

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. You need not fear to face any danger. You need not doubt in your heart that you will be able to live this life, or attain this daily consistent walk of victorious living. There is no reason for you to fear any danger for the Word of God says, "in ALL these things, we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." (Romans 8:37). Not only has Jesus made provision that all may become conquerors, and that we will be conquerors

over anything and everything we face in life . . . BUT MORE THAN CONQUERORS ! That's quite a promise! And that promise comes from the highest authority in heaven and earth. Face it, accept it, and it will take away all fear.

First of all, it's human nature to try to live the life of victory by self effort. Please listen carefully to what I have to say here, for it may help you to cease from all your struggling and straining, and the terrific effort you are putting forth to be the kind of Christian you feel you should be in living this constant abiding life in Christ Jesus. If that describes your day-to-day existence then you will agree that it takes away most of the joy from your salvation, and the joy of being God's child. In fact, it takes the joy out of living!

In the first flush of ecstasy after Jesus has been received as Savior and Lord, realizing the impossibility of living such a life of victory without His help and powder, there is a tendency to 'hug' our possession, to make a continuous and conscious effort to cling to it lest we lose it. There is the feeling that if we do not strenuously concentrate our thoughts upon the indwelling Christ, maybe we will lose Him. We go to sleep at night feeling that we might lose ground even while we sleep. We awaken in the morning thinking that we must be very careful through that day and put forth every effort, lest we lose this wonderful experience or the nearness of the Master. I often wonder if this position comes from regarding the victorious life as a blessing or a possession we can forfeit or lose. I believe that Satan always tries to induce us to regard it as such. It is his plan to cause us to believe that it may slip from our grasp. But this is not so. It is not true!

Always keep in mind that we serve a Person, not a thing. This wonderful experience of being born again, this life of holiness, this walk of victory is a relationship with a Person, not a thing. It is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who comes, not so much for us to possess Him, but that He may possess us. He cannot slip from our grasp. HE HOLDS US. He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). That is why I like to dwell upon the abiding Christ rather than the fullness of the Spirit. Someone put it so wisely:

\*Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord;

Once it was the feeling, but now it is His Word.

Once His gifts I wanted, now the Giver own.

Once I sought for healing, now I seek Himself alone."

That expresses exactly what I am talking to you about here. Jesus keeps us. It is not we who keep Him. \*\*He," the Bible says (Jude 24) "is able to keep . . ." He is able to keep you. He is able to keep me. We do not have to keep Him. Of course, we must allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be the home of our thoughts. We must be willing to be kept. That is where the danger comes in. The minute we are no longer willing for Him to keep us, then we get into trouble. But as long as we are willing for Him to keep us, then He is able to keep; and not only able, but willing, as long as we are willing to be kept in continuous victory.

I am talking to you about a life of victory, the provision made for a continuous and daily consistent Christian life of victory regardless of circumstances, regardless of depression, regardless of anything that might happen to you or come into your life. Looking unto Jesus in faith and love does not use or demand strenuous effort on your part to retain Him. He is a willing Savior. He is a willing Guest. He is a willing Lord. Your look of faith is not to be with strained eyes but with a restful gaze.

In the great miracle services in the First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Pittsburgh, so often I observe folk as they sit there in the pew, their faces etched with strain, their hands clenched into tight fists. They seem to be straining, straining to be healed, almost as though they are trying to heal themselves. It isn't like that. Rest entirely and completely in the Lord. Relax in His goodness. Then, in that moment as you are thinking about His bigness, the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit, and you are looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of your faith: suddenly you will feel that glorious presence of the Holy Spirit flowing through your body. It is not looking to Jesus through strained eyes, but with a restful gaze. It makes all the difference in the world.



"Abide in me," says our Lord in John 15:4. Rest peacefully in Him so far as your life of victory is concerned. At every alarm, at every approach of temptation, simply abide in Him. He is the Rock of Ages. He is all-powerful. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow" (Matthew 6:28). It is not by self effort nor by toiling and striving. They abide in the sunshine and they drink in its life. The Word of God reminds us: "Which of you by being anxious, by worry, by straining, can add one cubit to your stature?" (Matthew 6:27). In our Lord's mind was something more than physical stature. It is not our faith but His faithfulness that maintains the victorious life.

In the 37th Psalm, the 3rd Verse we read: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." So very often I read this scripture from the pulpit during our Monday night services because I believe we need to hear this on Monday more than we do on Sunday! It is through the week that we are confronted with all the problems and the difficulties. Trust in the Lord, trust in Him, do good. And you cannot trust in God without doing good for the two go hand-in-hand. You cannot separate the two. If you are not doing good, then there is something missing in your trust in the Lord; for as surely as you are trusting in Him, you will invariably do good.

Then let us go on from there: "So shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed." In other words, the Lord will take care of you! It's that simple ! I may remark in passing that even our conflict with evil around us—and I know the powers of the enemy are great, I know the temptations and the frustrations generated in this hour in which we live are many times ravaging—but even in view of these facts, our trust must be anchored entirely in Him and not in our own power or in our own efforts.

How remarkably this is brought out in our Lord's instructions to His disciples when He said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves" (Matthew 10:16). Now look at this more closely. How does Jesus proceed? Does He say, Be ye therefore armed to the teeth? No, He doesn't say that! He continues by saying, "Be ye therefore harmless as doves." Why? Because He is our defense. He is our shield. Sometimes it is not easy to commit everything unto Him. It may not be easy to remain harmless as a dove and relax in Christ in

your hour of frustration and with the circumstances under which you have to live. But, you can afford to relax because God is your defense and your shield, and in Him you are more than a conqueror!

## Temptations

We have already seen that it is not self effort that insures this wonderful life of constant victory. Now may I point out another truth: that the victorious life is not an untempted life.

There are those who, after the wonderful new birth, following their experience of knowing that their sins are forgiven, living in the ecstasy of that transaction with the Lord Jesus Christ, have the notion that it is always going to be like that: without temptations or troubles. Perhaps I was the one who led them in the sinner's prayer and as they got up from their knees, their face still tear-stained, I said to them: "Now remember to Whom you belong. You are an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ Jesus. You are somebody!" At a time such as that, it is easy to feel there will never again be temptations.

But life isn't like that! You were converted but the devil wasn't. You may feel as though the devil got converted, too; but he is the same as he always was — and it's just like that.

Therefore, the Christian life is not an untempted life. Only one man has ever lived an unbroken victorious life, and that was our Lord and Savior Himself. And the Word of God states that Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

When someone stands behind the pulpit and teaches that there will no longer be temptations after this wonderful new birth experience, that one is unscriptural. Adam and Eve, created in a sinless state, were tempted and they also fell. So we need not be surprised that the devil tempts us. He will do all in his power to drag us down and he knows our weaknesses, he knows when we are tired, he knows when we are in a state of fatigue. He has no principles whatsoever. He will wait for that moment when we are vulnerable and it is then that he will strike.

The prophet Elijah knew that. At one moment he was a great spiritual giant, challenging the prophets of Baal (I Kings 18). You and I think we have seen wonderful miracles but that was one of the greatest miracle services that ever took place. I'm sorry I missed it! You and I have seen sick bodies healed by the power of God, and we can rightfully say, Isn't that wonderful! But I'll tell you something. Greater than anything you or I have experienced or witnessed was the occasion when Elijah stood before the prophets of Baal, challenging them in the name of the Lord, and God came through and sent the fire from heaven! Had I been there while Elijah was defying the gods of the false prophets, I'm sure I would have been urging him on, standing behind him all the way, knowing that God always comes through with the victory.

But remember: it was only a few hours later, at a time when Elijah was weary in body and when his physical strength was gone, that temptation came. He was human and the devil was waiting for that weak moment to attack him. Just a few hours after that glorious victory on Mount Carmel, Elijah prayed to die. "Let me die! Jezebel is after my life," he cried!

How quickly and easily we, too, forget the power of our God when the enemy comes against us ! In that moment of Elijah's despair, did God cut him off? Did He forget or forsake him? No! No! He just let him sleep. God knew that all Elijah needed was twelve or fourteen

hours of good, restful sleep; and then He sent His angels to bake him a cake. That's what our Heavenly Father is like! But I want you to see and never forget that the power of the enemy very often comes when our physical strength is weakest. The devil attacked Elijah when God's servant was tired in body and he assaulted him through the weakness of the flesh. There was no spiritual weakness, no weakness in the prophet's spirit. The weakness was in the flesh and God knew it. Therefore, let us not be surprised when Satan tempts us. He will do all in his power to drag us down because the victorious life is the only one that really counts. Thus, every child of God will be tempted. But we can count it all joy, even in the face of the temptation; for we are told that "the shield of faith is able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:16). That is the reason why I say to you again:

No matter what happens, as long as God is still on His throne and hears and answers prayer; and just so long as your faith in Him is intact, you cannot be defeated. **YOU WILL NOT BE DEFEATED !**

Not one person needs ever go down in defeat as long as his faith in God is intact. And the most wonderful thing is that He will even supply the faith, for He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). He is the supplier of that faith, so how can we lose?

Perhaps right now you are defeated and you can see no possible path toward victory in your situation. Or maybe you are a backslider. Of course, under those circumstances, you are not having any spiritual results. You are not influencing your loved ones or the members of your church or those where you work. They can sense your defeat and all the while you long for a life of victory, the only life that really counts. Look up and by faith lay hold of the shield of faith. Do it now. Regardless of circumstances, the shield of faith is able to quench ALL the fiery darts of the evil one. If it wasn't true, God's Word never would have said it!

### Snare and Pitfalls

In continuing our examination of the pitfalls before us in our Christian walk, it has been my observation that an awful lot of people have negative thoughts. They live a negative life and everything about them oozes with the contrary environment which they create. Whenever you are unfortunate enough to walk into their presence, even before a word is spoken, you feel the downward pull of their attitude and you wonder, What is it?

Don't be a negative person! Don't practice a constant attitude of defeat thinking that you might fail, so you won't even try. Or, you won't ask because you might be refused; you won't make a request lest you be embarrassed by having someone say, No. Therefore, you remain passive and as the old saying goes. You sit in your rocking chair and you stay there all your life. Finally, when your last day comes, you find that you have never tried to do one thing simply because you were afraid of defeat, afraid of refusal. Get up out of that chair

now! Say aloud, I'll try it! And I guarantee that you will be surprised at the results of your efforts.

You may be thinking that it's easy for me to say that. But do you know why I can make such a statement? Because that is the kind of life I have lived all of my days. I have lived that kind of existence because I refused to fix my eyes on people. Instead, I have fastened my attention on God, and in Him there are no limitations and in His promises there is no defeat.

I am zeroing in on someone right now who has made excuses for not being a Christian because of the fear that he might not be able to live the Christian life. You point to all the hypocrites that you have encountered and you talk about their failures. Do you know something? I give those hypocrites more credit than I give you. Why? Because they put forth an effort. You haven't even begun. Don't talk about those whom you label 'hypocrites.' They have done more than you have done. At least they put forth some effort and you have not done a thing!

Remember: as long as you and I are in the flesh, there is always the possibility of temptation and there will always be the possibility of sinning. We read in the Old Testament, in Leviticus 4:3—'If the priest that is anointed do sin as the people . . .'" You may never have thought of a priest sinning but knowing human nature and man's weaknesses, God made provision for everyone, even those whom He anointed. Simply because you or someone else has been anointed of God and called of Him, does not mean that there will never be temptation or the opportunity to sin. God has made this fact very clear. In this case He speaks of the priest whom He has anointed , . . "And if he do sin . . ."

It is apparent here that sin is inevitable no matter who the person is. If you are a part of humanity then it is possible for you to sin. But, the most thrilling fact is that the Lord has made provision IF you sin. He has made provision for me if I sin. He has made provision for all if we should sin. Therefore, that person who says that he cannot be a Christian because maybe he won't be able to 'hold out,' is hiding behind a very feeble excuse. Get your eyes on the provision and not the possibility of sinning. God the Father thought of everything. He didn't forget

a single thing. He understands the weaknesses of the flesh. He created us. He knows all about us, better than we know ourselves. Thus, He has made every provision—even if we sin.

For the sake of clarity, let me make an analogy. Every ship that sails the seas is provided with an adequate supply of life boats lest there be a wreck or collision. It doesn't matter how small or how large the ship, it is always provided with lifeboats because there is the possibility of a storm or a collision and ultimate shipwreck. Of course, this does not imply that it is the Captain's intention to wreck his ship; but provision is made because there is always the possibility of a disaster. And God, who is a wise and never-failing Heavenly Father, has made full provision for His children lest we sin!

In an earlier chapter, I pointed out that the victorious life is secured by an act of faith and this wonderful daily walk of triumph is maintained by a constant attitude of faith. There must be that unwavering trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Suppose then that there is a failure and you or I, in a moment of temptation, should yield to that temptation? What if, in that instant of crisis, we should

give in to satanic pressures? There is the possibility that anyone of us can yield; but there may be those who will counter this statement by attesting, "I have been filled with the Holy Spirit. I have spoken in tongues. I have this gift or that gift of the Spirit. I belong to an organization where we do not believe in sin!"

Contrary to those who take that stand, I have found that in the Body of Christ made up of human beings who are still in a body of flesh, it is possible for any man or woman to yield to temptation and thereby sin. There are no exceptions for the very Son of God was tempted in all points like as we are, yet He remained without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Yes, you may be filled with the Holy Spirit, you may have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you may have spoken in tongues and God may have entrusted to you several gifts of the Spirit . . . but you are still open to attacks of Satan. Sometimes I think the folk to whom much has been entrusted are those that the enemy of our soul besieges most tirelessly.

Walk carefully. Walk softly. Guard well that which you have. If you are Spirit-filled, if God has bestowed on you heavenly gifts, if you have had great spiritual experiences, guard these things carefully for you are the very person that the enemy will attack. The more deeply spiritual you are, the greater will be the attacks of Satan upon you because you have greater influence than that one who is a weak Christian.

That is only logical. If the enemy can trip a spiritual giant and halt his effectiveness for God, that is exactly his plan. That person who has little or no influence for Christ, even though he is born again and has had that spiritual experience with the Savior, will not encounter the same measure of temptation as the one living close to Jesus. If the enemy is able to lure that borderline Christian into yielding to temptation, his victory will be small. It cannot compare to his delight in causing to falter that somebody whose spiritual influence is great. Therefore, we must be careful. We must walk softly. We must not be boastful but guard that faith well for the victorious life is secured by an act of faith; and it is maintained only by a constant attitude of faith.

Let's face facts. What happens when there is a failure and you do fall into sin? What then? I can tell you right now, Satan will immediately follow up his victory by trying to persuade you that there is no such thing as the victorious life; or if there is, that you never had the blessing of God in the first place. Or, he may cause you to believe that God's blessing is gone forever and you have lost it eternally.

There are those of you who read these words and say, "Kathryn Kuhlman, how do you know that much about me?" I don't, but I know exactly how the enemy works, and if he can convince you that you did not have salvation in the first place, he has won a big victory. If he can convince you that you have never been filled with the Spirit, he has won a double victory. If he can persuade you that you have never been called of God to your particular task, he has won a tremendous victory. He will try to put doubts in your mind. And remember, doubts are not of the Holy Spirit. Doubts are not of God, doubts come from the devil, the enemy of your soul. Defeat and depression are never of God. Oppression is never of God. Anything negative is not of God! Victory is

God's language and we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Christ who loves us!

So, immediately after you have yielded to temptation, Satan comes and lays on you his 'guilt trip' and says, "Now you are ruined. You are absolutely ruined. Your testimony is of no effect. What will your family think? What will the folk in the church think? What will your friends think?" And you experience the desolation of defeat. You hang your head, your feet drag and you are the most miserable person in the world.

You may be a missionary having done a tremendous job for God on the mission field. But something has happened to you out there, or something has happened to a member of your family and the enemy of your soul is taking advantage and is doing a good job of convincing you that you have ruined everything, that you have lost your influence. If he can get you off the track, off the mission field and get you back home again in a little rented house and can get you to live the rest of your life in defeat and discouragement, he has won a mighty big victory. Think of all those souls that will never hear of the Lord Jesus Christ if you yield to defeat, if Satan is able to thwart your labors for the Master!

Right now, get up and start doing something about it! But you say, "What can I do?" In the first place remember something: when a sin is confessed, it is forgiven (I John 1:9). Do not listen to Satan or to those who may accuse you. The Bible is full of victorious teaching. Victory was taught by Christ and it is revealed again and again in Paul's epistles and those of John. Remember that God gave us the victorious life after many, many falls (failures). Will He then withhold it forever because of one more fall? No!

"Then came Peter to Jesus, and said. Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but. Until seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21, 22). Jesus Himself gave the answer when Peter asked how many times he should forgive his brother if he sin against him. Once? Or maybe a second time? At the most, Lord, seven times (stretching his power for forgiveness) ? What does the scripture say? "Seventy times seven!"



We are to keep on forgiving again and again as long as that one comes and confesses it and asks forgiveness. If the Master restricted His forgiveness and if He promised to forgive us only once—or to forgive us not more than five, six or seven times at the most—all of us would be sunk. You cannot find in the Word of God where God's forgiveness is limited. He will not withhold His forgiveness from you! But, if Satan can whisper to you and convince you that you cannot be forgiven, he will do it. Then, he has won a great victory.

Now we have conclusively shown that there is no striving, no struggling on our part to receive forgiveness or maintain the victorious life. It is the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. His mercy and grace. Therefore, it must be obvious that our efforts and struggling will never reinstate us should we sin. If we fall into any sin, our Savior wishes us to turn to Him at once in faith for forgiveness. Do it immediately. The very second that you are conscious of sin, ask God's forgiveness and instantly He will put away your sin! The minute sin is confessed, that moment your sin is put away. Praise God!

### Other Dangers

Now, let's get very practical and regard something that is rarely discussed. Do not make the mistake to assume infallibility. You may ask, What in the world do you mean by that? Or you may consider such counsel as ridiculous. There will also be those who will say, I wouldn't think of assuming that I am infallible!

But wait a minute. There is a real danger of this in both your life and mine. I am very well aware that there is great joy in unbroken communion with our Lord and often a glorious consciousness of the indwelling Christ's power and presence. But it is not our power, it is His; and I want you to see that there is a danger of our supposing that we always know God's will in any matter. Therefore, we may think that we are always right.

Have you ever met folk who are so spiritual that they are dead sure they can never make a mistake? Of course you have! They are so sure of the indwelling presence of Christ, they are so sure of their knowledge of the Word of God,

they are so sure of their relationship with Him, they are so sure that they are infallible in making any decision that it becomes a danger.

I once read the account of a very marvelous Christian gentleman who told of an occasion when he lived with four devoted men of God. All were consecrated Christians and all were far more experienced in holy living than himself. Among them was one who was deeply taught from the scriptures. He consistently spent long hours alone in prayer; and he, therefore, assumed that in all things and situations he had the mind of Christ. He was also of the opinion that any proposals which conflicted with his ideas must certainly be wrong. He was confident that he had to be right at all times because he spent so much time in prayer with the Father. He took for granted that he was a little more spiritual than the others. And it is true that sometimes he was right, but sometimes he was wrong! We need to remember that no matter how spiritual any of us might be, there are times when we can be wrong for we are still human and nobody is right all the time.

One morning, he very quietly stated, "I want you gentlemen to know that in this instance you will have to deem my decision as accurate and true because I have spent more time than any of you alone with the Master, and I know I am right."

One of the group spoke up and said, "My dear Jim, some of us think that we also are led of God. Do not misunderstand me. Remember, we all can be wrong because, as human beings, we are fallible. There is only One who is infallible and that is Jesus Christ."

That particular man always assumed that he was absolutely guided by God in all his proposals. But that is not always the case nor is it true. I have learned through the years that all of us are sometimes a little 'deaf spiritually, and we do not always clearly hear God's message, just as the physically deaf person does not always hear perfectly over the telephone. Perhaps you know someone who is a little hard of hearing and when that one answers the telephone, he is liable to make a mistake because of his hearing impairment.

So it is also true that we are a little deaf spiritually at times. There must be a

perfect doing of God's Will before there is a perfect knowing of His doctrine. We need to recognize that we are all fallible, that we may be mistaken sometimes. I do not mean to infer, however, that the majority vote is always right even though the majority generally rules. Remember the Thirteenth Chapter of Numbers regarding the twelve leaders that Moses sent into Kadesh-barnea to spy out the Promised Land. Only two brought back a favorable report while ten men said, "We are not able to go up against the people for they are stronger than we" (Verse 31). If the majority is always right then the ten spies would have been right. They were the majority. No, only two were confident of success and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Verse 30). Unfortunately, the people sided with the ten, and forty years of wandering, of misery and rebellion ensued because they did not heed the advice of the two who had the mind of God and were right. But again I remind you and I say to myself as well: do not assume infallibility. Any one of us can be wrong regardless of how spiritual we may be.

I guarantee that what I am sharing with you is very practical, for I am dealing with everyday problems, the things we must all face and the trials that help us to grow to spiritual maturity. Perhaps these situations are not among those often discussed for I am quite conscious that most folk like to hear about the wonderful mountain-top experiences which are indeed glorious. All of us like messages regarding the Holy Spirit who is our Helper and our Strengtheners. But remember, even after a wonderful mountain-top experience such as Peter, James and John had when they saw Jesus transfigured before their very eyes, and Moses and Elijah stood before them . . . they had to come down the mountain, down to good practical everyday living.

We cannot ignore this world although we are cautioned not to become part of it; but we are still in the world, our existence is in the world. Jesus Himself said exactly that when in His prayer He said: "Father ... I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil (one)" (John 17:15). We are not to become a part OF the world, but that does not mean that we are not IN the world. We are! We are in the world and we cannot close our eyes and ignore it.

A father had a question concerning his little boy and he asked me, "Do you think it is wrong if I play marbles with my four-year-old son?"

What a question! The father was a Christian, a saint of God and perhaps someone pointed a critical finger at him for playing a game of marbles with his child. But I knew in that moment it would delight the heart of Satan if he could persuade this man, and other holy people, that all pleasure is sinful. There are some folk who feel that way.

I replied to his query: "Dear man of God: by all means play marbles with your little boy ... if you are not tempted to cheat. And if you are tempted to cheat, only then that seemingly harmless game becomes sin to you."

In spite of how innocent any situation may appear, we can always make sin out of it. I don't care what it is, you can make sin of anything. We are living not only a spiritual life, but a bodily life and whether we like it or not, a very large part of our time and interest is taken up with things that concern the body.

It has become apparent to me that those who are living the victorious life are the happiest, the most human of all people on earth; and they overflow with the joy of the Lord, and are the most delightful people to be with. I firmly believe that God's children should be the happiest people in the whole world. I believe that it is very inconsistent that a Christian should go around with a long face or displaying a depressed attitude. Just to be in the presence of someone like that brings down a spirit of depression. I do not want to be around people who cannot smile, who do not have the joy of the Lord. This is a wonderful world that God has given to us and this thing of living the Christian life is a wonderful life. We can still smile in spite of our circumstances. "The joy of the Lord is our strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10).

The Bible also tells us to "rejoice evermore" (I Thessalonians 5:16), and that means NOW . . . that we are to begin NOW while we are on this earth. I do not see how these people who always seem to wear a long face are going to enjoy heaven. That's true! There is going to be laughter there, it's eternal joy in heaven. Stop to think of something else: we do not have to wait until after death

has come to become the sons of God. No, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God" (I John 3:2). Right now! This very moment! I am still here on earth in bodily form. I am in the flesh in the world; yet, I am a child of God now. I do not have to wait until I get home to heaven to be a child of God or to be happy and to rejoice. The joy of the Lord is my strength NOW at this very moment.

I challenge you, therefore, to start enjoying your inheritance in Christ Jesus now. You need not wait another moment. Take Him at His word!

## God, Our Provider

I hope and pray with all of my heart that you have accepted the challenge I made at the close of the last chapter: to start enjoying your inheritance as God's precious child; and now I urge you to accept another of His provisions, one found in the Second Book of Kings, the last chapter, the last verse (II Kings 25:30) : "A daily rate for every day of your life, so long as you shall live." I have literally lived by that promise. I have claimed that promise for years and years. A daily rate . . . not a weekly rate, nor a monthly rate. Not a contract for five or ten years. It is God's guarantee of a daily rate every day of my life and yours so long as we both shall live!

If you are worrying about your finances, if circumstances have stripped you of a regular income, if your mate has died and you are suddenly faced with earning a living, or you may have been forced to assume the position of head of your household, of both mother and father to your children: remember, you are not alone! Your Heavenly Father knows all about your problems and needs and He has promised a daily rate for the rest of your life. You won't 'go under' in defeat! No, not if you have the same Heavenly Father that I have, and I am sure you do. Your Heavenly Father is my Heavenly Father. My Heavenly Father is your Heavenly Father. There is just one God and either you believe His Word or you don't.

The Bible here states that a daily rate will be given you of the King. Who is the King? Why our Heavenly Father! If that isn't security I don't know what security is. Many people turn to the government for their security and no one

can be sure that those checks will continue to come every month. That's not real security. I can point you to One who can give you better security than even the government. Do you realize that the United States Government can go bankrupt? Who ever thought that the Pennsylvania Railroad would file bankruptcy? If my Papa knew that the Pennsylvania Railroad went bankrupt, he would turn over in his grave! There was a day when it was believed that the railroad would be the last institution to lose financial credibility. But they did! Our real security is in Christ Jesus. I am secure in something that IS secure and as a child of God, you can be secure in something that is REAL security. God will never go bankrupt. Never, never, never!

We need to be reminded that the church of Jesus Christ is not a certain denomination, neither is it an institution. Jesus Christ Himself is the head of His church; He is the head of His body of believers. This invisible church with Christ as the central figure will never go bankrupt. His church will never know defeat because He is the head of His church. If you are a part of that invisible body of believers, you can be assured that you need never go down in defeat. You are guaranteed spiritual wealth and victory if you are a part of this invisible body.

And so it is, beloved, with your trust and your confidence in Him, you can live in constant victory. Not for one minute do you have to worry about poverty or failure because your King has promised you a daily rate all the days of your life even if you live to be a hundred years old! You'll never live too long and no night will be too dark. You do not have to be overcome by any burden. Just remember to Whom you belong; and because you are living a moment by moment and a day by day kind of life, you will find that you are a happy person. I still contend that people living the victorious Christian life are the happiest and most human of all people living. They possess a special kind of joy, not something that is forced, but a joy that is spontaneous. It saddens me when I see an unhappy Christian for I know they are missing God's best blessings, that there is something wrong in their life. Your circumstances, however dire they may be, make no difference.

God has made provision for you to be happy because the Word of God

continually speaks of the joy of the Lord and that promise which I gave you earlier (Nehemiah 8:10) is profound—"The joy of the Lord is your strength." I know what these words really mean. The joy of the Lord that He gives me empowers me to serve Him, the joy that I receive from helping others is my strength. It is something that neither you nor science can analyze but it is something that is as real as the air you breathe. No one will ever know the joy that I get out of helping others. No one will ever know. No one will ever know the joy that is mine as I give. I receive a far greater thrill, a far greater joy out of giving than perhaps the joy and pleasure that the folk experience who are recipients of the gifts. Inside of me I feel a sense of deep gratitude and happiness. It is a glorious world. It is a glorious life. It is so challenging and rewarding.

Some time ago God gave the people of the Kathryn Kuhlman Foundation the opportunity to minister to the needs of the people of Viet Nam. I don't know if those people got as big a thrill out of receiving from us as the joy that was ours from giving to them. I have been so excited about the hospital that this ministry is building there. I have personally experienced a greater thrill by our providing the supplies—the hospital beds, the sheets and pillow cases, the wheelchairs for the amputees—than if we were furnishing a magnificent home some place. I can visualize the bodily comfort that these sick folk are finding, and the spiritual blessings that are theirs as they learn of the Savior's love for them. I am reminded of the many who will benefit from the water pumped by the wells we have drilled, and I think of all the baths that will be possible, perhaps for the very first time in some of their lives.

Do you understand what I am trying to say? If you don't, that may be one of the reasons why you are not a happy Christian. That is possibly the reason why you have never experienced the real joy in being a Christian. Love is something you do! It is something that is spontaneous.

If you have to force yourself to live the kind of life that I am talking about, then you have never had that experience where you have literally become a part of God and God has become a part of you. If you have to force yourself, then there is something wrong. You are not a part of Jesus, and Jesus is not a part of

you. There is a place where literally your vitality comes from Him, and His vitality flows through your body. You take on the personality of Jesus. You cannot help it. You take on the personality of Jesus and the joy of the Lord becomes your strength. It is inescapable!

## Holiiness

This discussion is about something that is seldom brought to our attention. I am not sure if it's because we do not realize its importance, or if there is another reason; but it is undoubtedly a subject worthy of our prime concern.

A young Christian mother sat searching her Bible. She continued to spend much of the day reading, seeking out the deeper things of the Spirit. She was so hungry for His baptism and through the Word of God she was attempting to find the key in order to receive this blessing from God. She spent many hours seeking and examining the scriptures, so many in fact, that her household duties became tiresome and tedious and they were either hurried through or many times entirely neglected. The former peace and warmth and homeyness that had made their home a haven for the entire family were gone.

One day, as she was very deep in study, her little girl toddled to her side carrying a broken doll. She said, "Mommy, please mend my dolly. Please?"

With an impatient gesture the mother pushed the little one aside and said, "\*\*I have more important things to do than to be troubled with your dolly. Go and play, honey. Can't you see that Mommy is busy with her Bible?"

The little one turned sadly away and the mother continued her search for holiness. But her search was a fruitless one and at last the mother closed the Bible with a sigh, and she sought the little child. She found her asleep with her little doll cuddled in her arms. Tears were still wet on her pretty little face.

God spoke to that mother right then and there. Instantly her heart was smitten with conviction, and she tenderly stooped over the little one, and caressed her with her kisses. Taking her in her arms, the mother breathed a prayer to God for forgiveness. To her child she said, "I am sorry, honey. Mommy will fix your



dolly for you."

In that moment God revealed to that precious mother the fact that holiness could not thrive on neglected duties. Her devotion to her Lord was henceforth seen in her care of her family, her husband, her young daughter, her household; and that house again became a home and the very pages of scripture were lighted up with a fresh glory.

There is a holiness in being a good mother. There is a holiness in being a good wife. Holiness also means being a good husband. You cannot say that you are deeply spiritual and following the Lord in holiness if you are neglecting your children, if you are neglecting that son or daughter, that husband, that wife. I am saying something that is as practical as the Word of God. Do not neglect your family. Do not neglect your children. You are a living example to them. You may be the only Bible that they are reading right now. In neglecting them, they may lose confidence in you as a spiritual individual and a godly mother. Years later, they may point an accusing finger at you and say in truth, "\*\*You were so busy reading the religious magazines and books that you did not have time to be an example of Christ or a Spirit-led mother to your family."

I am reminded of the daughter who came to me and asked, "Miss Kuhlman, do you have to teach fasting? Is it in the Bible? It is something that is causing trouble in our home and resentment within me."

I answered, '\*Yes, fasting is taught in the Bible. It is something that God honors ; but why do you resent fasting so much?'

I was not prepared for the look on this young girl's face. She w<sup>^</sup>as distressed and extremely troubled by what I had said. It w<sup>^</sup>as apparent that she had a valid reason to find 'fasting' so distasteful, and a reason to resent and even hate it. When she spoke the word she almost spoke it with vengeance.

I questioned her further, "Why do you hate fasting so much?"

She looked me straight in the eye and said, "I'll tell you exactly w<sup>^</sup>hy ... if you have time to listen."

Of course I had the time so she continued : "Every Friday my mother attends your miracle service at the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, and every Friday is her fast day. When Friday morning comes, she makes all the family so miserable that we hate to gather at the breakfast table. I hate Friday! Dad hates Friday! My little sister and brother hate to see Friday<sup>^</sup> come because we know that when we sit down at the breakfast table. Mom will come in with a long face. She will pour Dad's coffee.

She will serve our eggs and toast and cereal. But she will do it dutifully, with a long, sad face and with every gesture she will remind us that she is fasting, that she would love to have breakfast. But it's her consecration to fast!

"Then, she pours Dad's second cup of coffee which usually prompts a little sermon about fasting. Miss Kuhlman, for the sake of our family, couldn't you please leave out fasting in your teaching?"

I slipped my arm about this young lady and said, "Honey Bunch, I can't leave out something that is in the Word of God. It is your mother who has to learn to find joy in fasting. When fasting is drudgery and it is nothing more than a duty and a form and ceremony, it has lost its purpose. Your mother may just as well sit down at the breakfast table on Friday morning and eat two eggs instead of one, because fasting doesn't mean anything more to her than a form, a ceremony, a duty. The real joy has been taken out of her sacrifice and she is only making it a burden to her family and something they will despise all the rest of their lives."

Consider this as a warning given in love: if your family no longer regards their home as a haven, it is time to search your own life, to search your own heart. I am talking to God's children who profess spiritual things. Always remember : a man's home should be his castle ; and every man who has a family should be happy and desire to come home, to spend the evening with his wife and children.

It is the duty of the wife to create an atmosphere of peace and warmth and love, to bring about a special kind of homeyness that will prompt the husband and the

children to hurry home. If your children prefer to be at the neighbor's house rather than their own home, there may be something wrong with the atmosphere of their home life and you will be wise to make it a matter of prayer.

When I was a child, I liked Mama's cookies better than the cookies that any neighbor baked, although I am not so sure Mama's cookies were that good. And I can still hear Mama apologize for the burnt toast that she often served Papa at breakfast. Then Papa would say, "Well, Emma, I would rather have your burnt toast than eat any place else." I can remember our visits to Aunt

Belle's house. Now my Aunt Belle was Mama's sister, and I might just as well tell you that Aunt Belle was a show-off. When we went to eat at Aunt Belle's, her table was loaded with a wide variety of good things. She would prepare several different kinds of meat and when it came to desserts, cake and pie were never enough. She always made something else, too.

But let me share something with you. The very next day after we had been to Aunt Belle's, Papa would turn to Mama as they sat at the supper table and say, "\*\*Emma, I would rather eat at home any day than eat at Belle's house."

Now it wasn't because Mama was such a good cook. She really wasn't. She didn't like to cook. Mama was never a slave to her kitchen. I can see her now as she sat on the front porch swing. Supper time was getting near and suddenly Papa could be seen coming down the walk. Mama would turn to me and say, "Quick! Quick! Quick, Kathryn! Put the tablecloth on the table and the coffee pot on the stove! Here comes Papa!"

As long as Papa saw the white tablecloth on the table and the coffee pot on the stove, he didn't know but what Mama had slaved all day in order to prepare for supper that night.

A happy home goes far deeper than a meal on the table. Mama made a nice home. There was an atmosphere of love there, and we would rather be home, sit at our own supper table than anywhere else in the world. Papa would rather eat Mama's burnt toast for breakfast, I'd rather have Mama's cookies than any of the neighbor's cookies or any of Aunt Belle's food!

God has given us a physical frame which needs food, and it is also a part of His great plan for humanity that we work. God never expected us to be happy without work and He has so designed man that he is happiest when he works. It is no disgrace to work. It is a part of God's plan for a healthy human life.

We read that the Lord Jesus watched the children at their play and the fishermen and the farmers at their work. Jesus Himself worked, yet He took time to be present at a wedding feast in Cana. He wishes you and wishes me to take a genuine interest in all the concerns of life, and those of our friends. He has given us a capacity for pleasure and He longs to see us enjoy His gift of life. Whatever we do, beloved, there must be joy in what we do.

God created us for work. He has made us for food, He has made us for exercise, He has also made us for relaxation. He wants us to enjoy our meals. He wants us to enjoy our work. He wants us to enjoy our recreation. He has fashioned the marvelous realm of nature—

"All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, The Lord hath made them all!"

And He has created all things for our pleasure as well as for His glory.

God expects His children to be careful about their dress and their manners. Surely He desires us to be attractive Christians. I remember how diligently Mama worked in order to make me nice little dresses. She would sew into the wee hours of the night, even after Papa had gone to bed. Why? Because she delighted in me. I was her child. She wanted me to look nice. She was proud of me.

And I firmly believe that our Heavenly Father wants you and me to dress and look and act so that He can be proud of us, proud enough to say, "That's My daughter! That's My son!" He wants that for you and me, too!

Mere Religion

Recently a lovely young lady, just twenty-three years old, flew into Pittsburgh

from New York City for the purpose of attending the Friday service in First Presbyterian Church. Her family and all her relatives live in a southern city. The family is very religious and every member for generations has belonged to the same church. Even before each new baby would utter its first cry, they all knew in advance that when that baby was born, it would be taken to that church and when it got old enough, it would go to Sunday School in that church. And then when it reached the age for church membership, it would be a member of that church, and when it got a little older, it would sing in that choir. And finally as the young men grew to adulthood, they would become deacons or church officials. It was like that for generations.

But here, suddenly, this extremely brilliant college girl broke the pattern and became defiant. She was the first member of the family to turn her back on the church. When she arrived in Pittsburgh, I found her to be very rebellious; but very frank and honest v^ith me. One of the first things she said to me v^as, "Miss Kuhlman, I rebel against religion. I'm sick and tired of it!"

Before she could go any further, I looked directly at her and I said, "Isn't it strange that you and I feel the same way?"

She stared at me with utter disbelief w^ritten across her face. I had taken her completely off guard, so much so that she was silent. She just looked at me with her mouth open. She didn't say a word even though her little speech wasn't finished.

"You heard me correctly," I said and added, "You know, if I had to be religious, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today because I'm not constituted in such a way that I can easily be religious. Even as a child I was the most mischievous kid in Concordia, Missouri. Joe Kuhlman's girl was unpredictable. There are some people, I believe, who are born religious! They seem to be born good. Now you take my oldest sister Myrtle. I'm sure she was religious from her first breath. She was just naturally religious. It was natural for her to be good. How Papa and Mama ever got me, ril never know, and God knows that they never quite figured it out either. I could not be a religious person if I had to be. I'm sick of religion, too!"

This young girl was so shocked she still didn't say a word. But I continued, \*Do you want to know something? I'm just crazy about Jesus! I love Him so much! I love Jesus more than anything in the whole world because, you see, my whole life revolves not around religion, my whole life revolves around a PERSON, and that person is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. I might just as well confess that I'm in love with Jesus!"

I went right on talking because she was still standing there, her mouth open. No one had ever talked to her like that. I said, "You see, if it was just a matter of being religious, I couldn't be doing the kind of thing that I'm doing. I do what I do, I work as hard as I work because of a person, and everything that I believe revolves around a person, the Person of God the Father, the Person of Jesus Christ the Son, the Person of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something that's cold, it isn't an institution, it isn't an organization, it isn't religion as such. It is something that is personal. It is something that is the most vital thing in my life. It is something that is alive. It is something that gives me a purpose for living, a purpose for doing. It gives real meaning to life; and what I live is a life, and not just mere religion."

Finally, she retrieved her voice and we had a good long talk together. Before she left, she said, "I see the whole thing. Just pray for me now. Miss Kuhlman. Pray that I'll not miss God's best for my life!"

You see, God's religion never yet made a man miserable. Think that one through. Maybe all that you've had through the years is just religion. There are thousands of people that all on earth they ever had is religion, and just enough religion to make them miserable. They are having a terrible time, just an awful time being religious. Every Sunday morning our churches are filled with religious people, and in many instances even the one who stands behind the pulpit has nothing more or less than his religion. The Bible has never become alive to him. Jesus Christ has never really become a living personality to him.

God the Father is still one that is very mystical, far off, he knows not where. You can perceive it in his prayers. He isn't quite sure to whom he is praying, whether or not he is really praying to a person, or if anyone at all is hearing his

prayers. That is the reason why the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit are never real to him.

The Holy Spirit can never get through to a person who is merely religious. There is a mighty big difference between religion and the Person of God the Father, the Person of Jesus Christ the Son, and the Person of the Holy Spirit!

May I ask you where you stand? Are you merely a religious person? If you are, you are not alone. There are tens of thousands exactly like you. But watch. If your life is centered around a person, you have something MORE than religion. You have a purpose for living. The Bible and God's Word are real to you. You have joy, you have peace of mind and God's religion never yet made a man miserable! Nor does the Lord Jesus Christ delight in misery!

It is amazing how many religious people have a theology all of their own, a doctrine all of their own, and it includes the fact that God delights in misery and in making people miserable. Did not the Savior Himself say, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15 :11) ? Cold religion does not give joy.

Now^ remember, there is a right way of making the most of both worlds. One way is right. Any other way is wrong. If your life revolves around the person of Jesus, not simply as an influence, not as a wonderful example, but the person of Jesus as the very Son of the living God who forgives your sin. One who hears the cry from your heart, then yours is not mere cold religion.

How can you know anything but victory when you are assured that there is a person who ever lives to make intercession for you, a great High Priest, One who is interested in you as an individual? Mere religion does not give you a great High Priest, an Advocate, One who left you His Name to use before He went away. Jesus said, "Here, I give you my name to use, and when you come into the presence of the holy Father, present my name. Come in my name before the throne of One who is absolute perfection.

absolute holiness and you will have a hearing." (John 14:13-14; John 15:16; John 16:23,26,27)

Religion doesn't do that for you. Religion is cold. Religion is something abstract. There is no warmth or love in religion. There is no real strength in religion. It won't stand the test when you come face to face with temptation. It will not stand the test when you come face to face with disappointment. It will not stand the test when you come face to face with the open grave or eternity.

Do not rely on mere religion. If you do, it will never stand the test. The Heavenly Father is a person, Jesus Christ is a person and the Holy Spirit is a person. True Christianity is not religion, it is a relationship with the Persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## Feelings

As we begin to examine this thing of 'feelings,' let me stress the proper order: fact comes first, faith is second, and feelings are third. They should always remain in that order. We all have feelings for we are part of the human race; but I caution you lest you allow your life to be governed solely by your feelings. Too many people rely on feelings, just feelings alone.

There are literally thousands of thousands who have experienced the ecstasy, the thrill of having been born again. They know that their experience is real, as real as God Himself, as real as the person of Jesus Christ.

But let me remind you that one's feelings, the ecstasy, the thrill of salvation have absolutely nothing to do with the facts. You are saved by fact, saved by the promises of the Word of God, saved because of the price that Jesus paid for you on the cross. You accept the pardon, you accept what Jesus did for you BY FAITH and by faith alone.

The fact is, we were born in sin. Then Jesus came and died on the cross. He paid the price in full by His death, and we reach out and accept that for ourselves personally. Jesus bought and paid for the whole thing. All we have to do is reach out and personally accept what He has already bought and paid for in our behalf.

Feelings are not always involved when a decision to receive Christ is made. In



many instances, yes. But not always. I have seen some folk respond to an altar call time after time. I have asked them the question: "Didn't you come before? Why do you come again?"

Invariably the answer I received went something like this, "Well, I didn't FEEL I was saved. I didn't FEEL that my sins were forgiven."

Feeling has nothing to do with it whatsoever! You are saved on facts and the moment, by faith, you accept what Jesus did for you—you accept His pardon—it is done. The Word of God clearly states in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." The very minute you confess, that moment it is done whether or not there are any feelings involved.

We all know folk who, when they get up in the morning and if they do not feel well or failed to get a good night's sleep.

are certain that God has turned His back on them and the Bible is not true. Everything spiritual that they possessed leaked out as they slept. They are like a deflated balloon, and they mope around all day, good for nothing, not even to God. Why? Because everything in their life, w^hether they are up or down, depends on their feelings. When they feel 'down,' they make life miserable for their family, for their neighbors, for everyone with whom they come in contact. But, if their feelings are 'good,' they have victory. Everything hinges on how they feel.

You are saved by fact, but the 'feelings' will eventually come. You will experience the ecstasy and the joy when you realize you have passed from death unto life, when you realize that God is your Heavenly Father now, when you realize that your sins are forgiven and that you do not have to stand before God in judgment and give an account of your sins that were all forgiven at the moment of your new birth. If that doesn't make you happy and bring you real joy and ecstasy, nothing will.

God wants us to trust Him. He wants us to trust His Word and not to rely upon feelings. He would save us from the peril of testing our victory, or testing His indwelling by any preconceived notion of ours as to how His presence should

be felt or manifested. Think less of the victory, less of the blessing and MORE of the Blessor. I always smile at what Mr. Spurgeon said and I think of it so very often. It's worth repeating here. His words were wise when he said, "I looked to Jesus and the Dove of Peace flew into my heart. I looked at the Dove of Peace and she flew away!"

Focus your attention upon Jesus. When you look to Jesus, He will give you that wonderful peace. His Dove of Peace.

Now faith is not something tangible that you can carry in your pocket and reach down and take it out, examine it, then put it back again. Neither is your salvation something that you keep in a little bag, open it, take it out, look at it and then put it back again. No! Salvation is a life. Victory over sin is a life. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is more than one definite experience for five or ten or fifteen minutes. It, too, is a life. Therefore, do not examine or test your victory, but just maintain a simple and constant trust in God. It is a day by day, an hour by hour, a moment by moment living in Him, knowing that He cannot and He will not fail.

Sometimes I think it is really better to enter into the victorious life by simple faith, unaccompanied by ecstasy or thrills, but this is not always the case. I'm sure you have heard people talk about the feeling that accompanied their born again experience—mine was like that.

I will never forget the Sunday morning when I, a fourteen-year-old girl, in a little Methodist Church in Concordia, Missouri, had my first encounter with Jesus. I have never doubted that experience all through these years, neither will I forget the thrill that was mine. There was an ecstasy, a definite feeling I had never known before and when I left that church and started for home, I really felt that every house I passed had just gotten a brand new paint job! They hadn't. They were just as much in need of paint as they were when I passed them on my way to church that morning. They just looked freshly painted to me. All the way home, after that wonderful experience, even the grass seemed to be greener. My feet barely touched the pavement.

Had I expected nothing more and had I leaned on the ecstasy of that single experience for the rest of my life, I would have been sunk. Since that time, I am frank to tell you, there have been some nights that have been mighty black. There have been some waters that have been mighty deep. There have been days when I have literally had to take the presence of Jesus by faith alone. Yes, you may know exactly what I'm talking about. There hasn't always been that feeling of ecstasy. Let me remind you that the absence of the thrill and the ecstasy does not prove that Jesus has left you or that you are alone. God wants us to learn to trust Him and trust His Word, and not to rely upon mere feelings.

I add something here because it is vitally important. Do not adopt the habit of constantly talking about Satan. I get so sick and tired and depressed by these people who begin talking about Satan as soon as you come into their presence: how he did this or that. They are dead sure that it was Satan in the life of their husband that prompted his actions, or who brought sickness into the home, or caused hard feelings with a loved one.

No one believes more than I do in the reality of Satan and his power. He is real. His power is real. But instead of talking about Satan, talk about Jesus! If you continually talk about Satan, a spirit of depression will descend upon your own life. It will permeate your home, and anyone entering your doors will sense that spirit of depression. You will be responsible for having brought that spirit into your home because you allowed Satan to rule your mind and thinking, and finally to rule you.

Instead, keep your eyes on Jesus! Keep your mind on Jesus. Maintain a simple and constant trust in Christ. He cannot fail. Were it possible for us to make a choice, it would be far better to enter into the victorious life by simple faith in Christ unaccompanied by ecstasy or thrill; for when the thrill subsides and life seems humdrum and commonplace, we may be tempted to think the victory has vanished with the thrill. Do not trust feelings whatever you do! Be careful to place fact first—then faith—then feeling. Follow that order and you will never live a defeated Christian life.

With Your Eyes on Jesus

Previously we discussed 'feelings' and how they can affect your victory. But now another matter needs to be dealt with since you have embarked on the life of surrender to God. **DO NOT BE SURPRISED IF OTHERS FAIL TO SEE YOUR VICTORY!**

I can remember what a precious Jewess said when she gave her testimony. She confessed, "When I found Christ as my Savior in Carnegie Auditorium in Pittsburgh, it was such a glorious experience I thought that my husband and my whole family would rush to follow my example and have the same experience that I had. No one was more surprised than I when they just looked at me—they didn't believe me! They thought I had 'gone off the deep end!' I rationalized and excused them because of love and knowing that families are sometimes stubborn and difficult.

"But my friends ... I knew they were different, that they were intelligent and had confidence in my judgment. When I would tell them about my experience with Jesus, they would understand; and I was sure they would waste no time to attend a service and receive the same blessing that I now had."

Then she admitted, "Lo and behold, they weren't moved at all! I have to confess that I was almost critical regarding my husband and my family, and it was difficult for me to believe that my friends reacted in the same way."

Remember something. Only one man ever lived a sinless, a really victorious life all through his days on earth and that is the man Christ Jesus. But His contemporaries, the leaders of religion, were so blinded that they failed to see the victorious life in Jesus. So they called Him a winebibber, a sinner and accused Him of having a devil. They had no understanding whatsoever of the perfection in the life of Jesus. Their spiritual vision was so obscured that they did not recognize that He was the very Son of the living God.

They said of Jesus, "We know that this man is a sinner" (John 9:16, 24) ; and so we must not be surprised if men fail to recognize the victorious life in us. If this is the case, just smile. Never fight back. Continue to be humble. Humility is one of the greatest of all Christian

graces, and there is nothing more convincing to an unbeliever than the fruits of a victorious life in Christ Jesus, the life of one who is following the Master.

When others oppress us or when they deny our sincerity or when they say we are not orthodox, we must not give vent to a spirit of unlove nor allow a root of bitterness to come in. And be careful lest you present a 'holier than thou' attitude. Should you entertain an emotion such as that for even one minute, your victory is broken and your influence will be lost. There is nothing more disgusting or nauseating to others than one who professes to be a Christian, yet manifests such a spirit.

Permit me to go a step farther. I direct a word of caution to those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit and have received the Baptism: be careful that you do not display an attitude of spiritual bigotry. Bigotry is not a character trait of the Holy Spirit . . . but humility is.

If Jesus, the very Son of the living God, chose to set us an example by His willingness to become a servant, girding Himself with a towel and washing the dusty feet of His disciples; then surely we who have been filled with His Spirit must live to serve and manifest the humility of our Lord and our Savior who equips us with power for service.

Do not wait for future opportunities to manifest the indwelling Christ, looking for a very special occasion to arise, expecting a big moment to testify to the power of Jesus, to be heard publicly as you stand before a large gathering.

I am constantly aware that my ministry is not limited to public services. The services stay secondary. My greatest opportunities to witness for Jesus are NOW in my contact with the garage attendant, with the waitress in the restaurant, the grocery clerk and even those who work with me in the office. For me to live is Christ . . . and He is love!

Let It Shine

As we go a step farther, turn to a portion of the Word of God found in the Sixth Chapter of Romans, the Twenty-second Verse, where we again see the same

word 'now,' which we encountered earlier.

**\*\*But NOW being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life/**

Isn't that thrilling? We know that the only time that we can live this victorious life is right now and the only way to have victory through Christ is to take it now at this very moment. You see, not one of us is assured of the moment beyond this moment. I am not assured of the week beyond this week. I am not assured of the month beyond this month.

I have only the assurance of this moment; therefore, I must take advantage of every opportunity that this moment holds for me.

The most important element in the world is time. There is nothing that is more important to you or me at this moment than time, for when time is gone.

all the powers on earth and in heaven cannot bring it back again. Think of it . . . while you have been reading these words, those moments are now history and you cannot bring those moments back again. Since you awakened this morning, those hours are now history. All the powers on earth, all the powers in heaven, God Himself cannot bring those hours back again to you and those hours were filled with opportunities. That all-important element of time is the most important element in the world to you.

If you are a wise person, you will realize that every moment has its opportunity and you will take advantage of those opportunities now. God is light as well as love, and our Lord said, "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). He did not say to make it shine as occasion arises. We are to let it shine always and everywhere, every moment of every hour and every hour of every day. If you are a Christian, if you are among those who are sons of God, heirs with Christ and heirs of God, joint-heirs with God's only begotten Son, you are to let your light shine . . . not for an hour a day, not for thirty minutes on Sunday, not only when you are sitting in church, not when you

are trying to make a good impression. Let it shine now! That little word 'let'

is the key to the whole issue. God will not force you. God's personality is contrary to human nature. He does not force a person to do anything. As I look back on my own life, I can honestly say to you that God never forced me to do one thing. Does that amaze you as much as it does me?

Permit me to explain. I can walk from behind the pulpit any time I desire and never return to a public platform again. I have the power and the will to say, "Vm tired. I have made my contribution to God and humanity. All that I have known since I was fourteen years of age is hard work. I have never used my life selfishly so far as I know, and now I feel that I owe something to myself. I have made my final contribution to God and my fellow man. From here on out, I am going to take it easy!"

Of course, if I did that, I would be the most miserable person in the world. Even the very thought of it frightens me. But I use this example to point out that I have a will of my own whereby I can make up my mind to never preach another sermon. And God would never

force me. He would never come down with a club and say, "Now look here, Kathryn. I force you to spend the rest of your life preaching the Gospel."

No, God will not force me to serve Him or to live a Christian life. I do it because I want to, because I love Him. My whole life revolves around a person and that person is Jesus Christ.

There is a place in Christ where one loves Him so much that he chooses to serve Him, that he wants to serve Him more than anything in the world. His vitality comes from God, his strength, his wisdom, his knowledge come from Him and his life is lived through and in Him because he is a part of the Body of Christ and wants to serve Him. Then it is the most natural thing in the world for that person to want to serve the brethren, and to serve all humanity. It is similar to the fact that  $2+2=4$ .

God says, "Let your light shine." You have to WANT your light to shine. You are the master of your light. You may possess degrees in theology, you may be skilled and learned in the Word of God, you may have experienced the Baptism

of the Holy Spirit and know the fulness of the Spirit; yet, you must LET the Holy Spirit work through you and shine His light through your life.

LET IT SHINE—always, everywhere. When you get out of bed each day you say joyously to yourself and to God, TO LIVE IS CHRIST. From that very moment, make up your mind to manifest something of the glory of Christ to everyone that you meet that day. Keep a watch over yourself. On many occasions, the garbage collectors have passed my kitchen door before I left the house for my office. It is my choice to either keep that door closed, pull down the shade and turn my back; or go to the door, greet them and wish them a good day, even though it was the noise of the garbage cans rattling throughout the neighboring community that awakened me before dawn and long before the truck reached my own driveway. God does not force me to make either of those two choices. I can be disgruntled and let my natural disposition take control of me, or I can choose to let my light shine. It's up to me!

Every morning when you awaken you make the choice. You can say, "For me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21), and Christ is love. You can manifest His

glory and His love to the world and let your light shine for the Lord Jesus Christ. Or, you can decide to let your light be hid under the bushel, and go around grumpy, complaining, making yourself and everybody else miserable.

When you are an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ Jesus, the whole person—body, soul and spirit—is affected. As I walk out on the street and during every moment of my life, I want my Lord to be proud of me, not only in soul and spirit, but of my outward appearance as well.

Let your loved ones in the home see your light and your victory. Let your fellow workers, whether you are in the office or the shop, in the factory or school, see that Christ is dwelling in your heart. Why shouldn't the tradesman, the postman, the bus driver perceive your secret? Be an open epistle of Christ known and read of all men everywhere, be a light whose brilliance cannot be dimmed.



## The Secret

How is it that we all are so slow of heart to understand? Probably the best way to convey my case in point is to describe at some length the inner experiences of a man who had long been devoted to the service of God.

I am speaking of Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China. He left a letter written to his sister, a record of his search for holiness, for a deeper walk with God and the constant abiding in Christ Jesus. His letter reveals his total inability to find a means to obtain this deeper experience, despite the fact that the way lies clearly printed on the pages of scripture. Although this wonderful truth is indeed plainly outlined in God's Word, yet the Holy Spirit alone can make it a reality to the hearts of men and women. So, in this letter written to his sister, Hudson Taylor, that great missionary to China, expressed his deep emotions, his desperate search for this experience. I take the liberty to quote from this letter:

\*I prayed, fasted, agonized, made resolutions, read the Bible more diligently.

sought more time for retirement and meditation; but all without effect. Every day, almost every hour, the consciousness of sin oppressed me. Then came the question: \*Is there no rescue? Must it be this to the end, constant conflict, and instead of victory, too often defeat?'

\*\*I hated myself, I hated my sin, and yet I gained no strength against it. I felt I was a child of God, but how to rise to my privileges as a child I was utterly powerless to see. I thought that holiness, practical holiness, was to be gradually attained by a diligent use of the means of grace. I felt there was nothing I so much desired in the world, nothing I so much needed. When my agony of soul was at its height, a sentence in a letter was used to remove the scales from my eyes, and the Spirit of God revealed the truth of our oneness with Jesus."

Would you like to know ... to see what was in that letter, that one sentence that gave to Hudson Taylor that which he had sought so long? All right then—let's continue:

"By faith a channel is formed by which Christ's fullness plenteously flows

down. The barren branch becomes a portion of the fruitful stem. He is most holy who has most of Christ within."

Let me repeat that one sentence. It is profound. If you forget everything else that this letter includes, if you do not read any farther, remember this one sentence : "He is most holy who has most of Christ within."

The letter continued, "It is defective faith that clogs the feet and causes many a fall. Abiding, not struggling or striving, looking to Him, trusting Him for present power, trusting Him to subdue all inward corruption, resting in the conscious joy of a complete salvation; a salvation from all sin, willing that He should be truly supreme.

"That is not new, and yet," said Hudson Taylor, "it is new to me. I seem to have gotten to the edge only, but to the edge of a sea that is boundless. Not a striving to have faith, not a striving to increase our faith, not a struggle at all; but a looking to the Faithful One, looking to Jesus seems all we need—resting in the Lord, resting completely and entirely on Him for time and eternity."

That is the secret and that was the sentence which arrested Hudson Taylor's attention—that one sentence: "NOT A STRIVING TO HAVE FAITH, BUT A LOOKING OFF TO THE FAITHFUL ONE SEEMS ALL THAT WE NEED!"

It's just that simple!

I shall never forget my conversion at the age of fourteen in that little Methodist Church in Concordia, Missouri, an experience I related earlier to you. It was some time after that that God so definitely called me to the ministry. My call to preach was as real as my conversion. It seemed that every atom of my being cried out for more of Jesus. I have known physical hunger but I have never known a physical hunger in my whole life that was as great as the spiritual hunger that I had for Him.

I was very ignorant and very stupid when it came to spiritual things. I had had no formal theological training, nothing whatsoever. But I stumbled upon some

holiness camp meetings in Iowa after I became a Christian and before I knew anything about the Holy Spirit, before I learned about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

All I knew was that I had been born again, that Jesus had forgiven my sins. I shall always remember that old-fashioned tabernacle on the camp meeting grounds with sawdust underfoot. I was

so hungry for more of Jesus and every time an altar call was given after the morning, the afternoon or night sessions, there I was, a red-headed, freckle-faced teen-aged girl rushing down the aisle, the first to kneel in that sawdust, my head buried in my arms, weeping and crying and seeking holiness, seeking some experience I knew not what.

When the noon hour came, everyone else would leave for dinner but I remained there at the altar. I would be there when the afternoon service began. I was the first to return to the altar when the call was given again for those who wanted to be completely holy, for those seeking holiness.

I never found what I was seeking THERE ! I was seeking for some experience, some ecstasy. It was years later that I learned that Jesus is our holiness, and the one who has the most of His holiness, is the one who has the most of Jesus. You may talk about the experience of holiness and sanctification. It is still a matter of seeking Jesus. You may talk about the wonderful experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. It's still more of Jesus. And even after one has been filled with the Holy Spirit—remem-

ber, my friend—the Holy Spirit Himself always magnifies and glorifies Jesus.

He is most holy who has most of Jesus within! No, it's not striving to have faith; it's not striving for some experience; but it's looking to Jesus, receiving more of Him, and that is your answer.

# Table of Contents

[Start](#)