

Words
of
Cheer

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FOR EACH DAY OF THE YEAR

by C. E. Cornell

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Beacon Hill Press


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PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

C. E. Cornell was one of the foremost pastors of the first half-century of the Church of the Nazarene. For years he served First Church, Chicago, and carried on a vigorous evangelistic ministry. Later he pastored historic First Church of Los Angeles, California. He was primarily a soul winner. It is said that he would preach for fifteen or twenty minutes and follow with an altar call lasting as long or longer. His consuming passion was souls.

It is altogether fitting that during the church's observance of its fiftieth anniversary another edition of C. E. Cornell's *Words of Cheer* should be published. The memory of this dynamic personality and untiring worker deserves to be revived during this Golden Anniversary of the church.

Words of Cheer—could there be found a more appropriate thought during these days of uncertainty and bewilderment? The Word of God brings cheer to the darkest hour, as the first drops of a refreshing rain to a drought-wilted flower. The world brings heartaches, burdens, disillusionment, disappointment. Just when we are about to be overwhelmed, the words of Jesus come, whispered by the Spirit, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

It is with particular gratification that we prepare a new edition of *Words of Cheer* and send it out to encourage the hearts of those who "have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God."

BEACON HILL PRESS

Words of Cheer

January 1

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work (II Cor. 9:8).

There are five all's or words equivalent to *all* in this text. They cover every human emergency and need. His grace is bountiful, the provision limitless. Draw hard on the exhaustless supply.

January 2

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11).

“The Lord God is a *sun*”—the source of *light* and *life*. A *shield*—to protect His children from the virile and sudden attacks of the enemy. “Why need a saint fear darkness, when he has such a sun to guide him? Or dread dangers, when he has such a shield to guard him?” He will give *grace*—just when we need it; and *glory*—to inspire the soul. “No good thing will he withhold from them that walk *uprightly*”—morally straight, not crooked, and *all things* from God, whether pain or pleasure, will be *good*.

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January 3

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles (Ps. 34:17).

Not the careless, the lukewarm, the worldly church member, but the righteous. Whose life is *right*, who pleases God. When he cries, the Lord *delivers him*, and great is the deliverance.

January 4

If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth (Mark 9:23).

This means in the realm of righteousness; "not every rash and presumptuous belief that the mind, not in communion with God, may conjure up." But consistent with faith. Then the "all things" are possible. What a delightful sweep of promise!

January 5

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

Here is described the First National Bank of Heaven. Name of Banker, "my God"; promise to pay, "shall supply"; amount, "all your need"; bank capital, "according to his riches"; location of bank, "in glory." Your *need* is very often much less than your *wants*. He promises only your need.

January 6

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (I Cor. 10:13).

To fall from grace is possible, but not necessary. Pray, plan, work to be kept, and He will keep you. We may fall into a den of lions, but He is there to shut their mouths. We may get into a fiery furnace, but the form of the Fourth is there, and no fire can burn us. You are no more severely tried than others; *He will deliver you.* Pray on, trust on.

January 7

A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked (Ps. 37:16).

Lazarus was a richer man with God's blessing than Dives with his sumptuous fare and Tyrian purple. A humble, unpretentious home *blest* is better than a mansion *curst*. A calico dress *blest* is better than a costly robe *curst*. A crust of bread and some water *blest* is far better than a bacchanalian feast where the devil reigns. "A woolen cap *blest* is better than a golden crown *curst*." Do not grumble if you are poor, but thank God that you are *rich* in Him. It is better to be a poor, rich man, than a rich, poor man.

January 8

The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow (Deut. 28:12).

A munificent and glorious promise for the faithful children of God. He is able, He is willing, He will perform. Trust Him, ask Him.

January 9

No man shall set on thee to hurt thee (Acts 18:10).

It does not say that we shall not be set on, but that we *shall not be hurt* even if they do set on us. The Lord said it to Paul in a time of stress; He says it to you today. His word is sure, His strength available.

January 10

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord (Isa. 54:17).

God has promised to quench the fiery darts of the wicked. They must shoot their arrows—even bitter words—but no one is hurt. "But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded." God knows how to *shoot*, and how to *deliver*.

January 11

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

They have *listening ears* for the Master's instruction and direction. He is a safe *Shepherd*; He will lead His sheep in "green pastures" and "beside still waters." He will protect them in storm and danger. If *one* sheep is lost, He will bring it home on His bosom.

January 12

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (John 10:28).

Oh, the supreme happiness of those who are His! No *one* can wrest them from His hand. The Christian is unconquerable; but this is true only as long as he abides in Christ, that is, as long as he continues in *faith*. He is temporally *safe*; he is eternally *sure*.

January 13

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble (Ps. 9:9).

Oppression comes from men, and also from the devil. But a refuge is provided in our God. "As ships when vexed with the tempest make for the harbor, so do the oppressed hasten to the wings of a just and gracious God."

January 14

He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee (Job 5:19).

Trouble of some kind is sure to come. We need not fear; Omnipotence stands ready to protect and succor His children. Though there be *six* or *seven* troubles, or all of them together, God can deliver from the *many* as the *few*.

January 15

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever (Ps. 125:2).

The mountains about the Holy City in ancient times furnished, practically, an impregnable barrier. So our God is a wall of fire about His people. We are protected on every side: the heavens above us, the Lord himself a wall about us, and rock beneath our feet. Our credulity is great if we distrust Him to keep us.

January 16

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee (Isa. 41:13).

As the little, trustful child with its little hand in the big, strong right hand of its father is so confident of safety and protection, so God holds the hands of His children. We "will trust, and not be afraid."

January 17

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord (Ps. 31:24).

The heart is the *center* of the life. The heart strengthened means the very center of the life buttressed and made strong. If there is *faintness*, he will remove it and furnish courage.

January 18

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all (Ps. 34:19).

The Bible does not flatter us by telling us that *everything* is charming. No, there will be affliction; we will not suffer less than our ascended Lord. "Be our troubles many in number, strange in nature, heavy in measure; yet God's mercies are more numerous, His wisdom more wondrous, His power more miraculous; *He will deliver us out of them ALL.*"

January 19

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him (Rom. 10:12).

Jehovah has no *pets*. He is the bountiful Administrator of His abundant mercies to *any* and *every* needy, struggling heart. *Call* and partake of His inexhaustible riches. Giving does not impoverish Him. Make *large* demands; He will cash your checks.

January 20

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him (Lam. 3:25).

Our haste, the rapidity of the age in which we now live, and more often our egotistical judgment, keep us from *waiting* on the Lord—long enough—to get the mind of the Lord about many matters. Calamity is our portion because *we do not wait*. But the Lord will deliver us and spare us if we will only *wait*.

January 21

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:18).

A careful computer, as though reckoning an arithmetical problem. Our sufferings, often severe, are *nothing* compared with the glory He puts in us and the glory that shall enwrap our celestial bodies. Some suffer and *complain*; they ought to suffer and *rejoice* in anticipation.

January 22

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him (Isa. 3:10).

He is fortunate who is *righteous*; yea, he is a multimillionaire. A rich Father is his surety. He is fortunate if he is unfortunate; he is well if he is ill; he triumphs in adversity and shouts over losses. *It is always well with the righteous.*

January 23

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song (Isa. 12:2).

There is no salvation other than through God. Those who know this by experience have great confidence in Him. To *trust*, and not be *afraid*, embraces complete devotion and a holy heart. "The Lord JEHOVAH," what measureless power in these words! He is *my strength*.

January 24

He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer (Ps. 102:17).

The poor and those in unfortunate circumstances may be forsaken by their friends, but the ear of God is ever open to their cry. He will shake a world to answer the prayer of a sincere child of His. *Be sure to pray.*

January 25

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee (Deut. 33:27).

The God who was, and is, and ever shall be; the unchangeable, holy, wise, and merciful God, who doeth *all things* well—He shall defend thee. *Arm* represents strength, power. The unlimited, unconquerable power shall be eternally exerted in behalf of God's Church

and those who put their trust in Him. Is this not enough?

January 26

He will keep the feet of his saints (I Sam. 2:9).

Our feet shall not slide, neither shall they go in evil ways, for He is our Guide and our Stay. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." This is the path of safety and delight. We will walk in it.

January 27

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee (Ps. 55:22).

Do not carry your burden, dear child of God. If you do, it will surely break you down. He is our Burden Bearer. His omnipotence can carry the weight of worlds; your puny burdens will not embarrass Him. Go quickly and cast them on Him. What a comfort here! *Lean hard.*

January 28

He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved (Ps. 55:22).

Note please: the *righteous*. Not the wishy-washy, halfhearted, compromising church member. Such have no claim on God. But the pious, sincere, thoughtful, prayerful Christian. God is his defense; nothing can harm him.

January 29

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (I Pet. 5:7).

The *known* bundle and the *unknown* bundle are placed upon God's altar. Not cares just as they come, but all in His hands. Then if cares or anxiety arise, faith recognizes them as belonging to Him. He careth for each as though that individual were the *only one* in the universe.

January 30

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God (Heb. 4:9).

Rest from *sin* and its inward strivings. Rest from *worry*; rest from *impatience*; rest from *fussiness*; rest from *fear*; rest from *ourselves*; rest from *anticipating calamity*. Oh, how restful is this rest! Resting in the arms of Jesus in calm repose! This is *your* privilege.

January 31

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matt. 24:13).

There is an abundance of *enduring grace*, and rich reward while we are passing along. Salvation furnishes an *everyday payday*, and then God throws heaven and eternal life in for good measure. We are rich here, and richer yonder. It will pay us to *endure*.

February 1

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness (Col. 1:11).

Our human frailty would fail under the stress and trials of everyday life were it not for the strength from above. This He freely gives, so that *longsuffering* is the quality of the soul toward all gainsayers, persecutors, and those who may try to injure us. *All might* is ours; or, in other words, *divine invigoration* for every faculty of the soul.

February 2

The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me (Ps. 116:6).

Not the arrogant, not the proud, not the "stuck up," but the simple; those who have simple faith in God, who trust Him, and Him alone. Freehearted, cleanhearted, who look nowhere for deliverance, except from God. Oh, for this simple, childlike trustfulness!

February 3

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler (Ps. 91:4).

The striking figure of the mother hen and her chicks. Safety and warmth; healing and hiding. Concealed, protected, refreshed, and nourished. Is that not enough? "His truth"—but you must know it—"shall be thy shield

and buckler." A double armor, a shield and a coat of mail.

February 4

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways (Ps. 91:11).

The ministry of angels for the saints of earth—what high and holy protection! That word "charge" carries with it the thought of command. *I charge thee to deliver that one from the attack of the enemy.* "Angels"—not "one" angel, but many—shall keep thee in all thy ways. Heaven's resources are at the command of the Christian.

February 5

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them (Isa. 41:17).

God succored His people in the wilderness and the desert. Water gushed from the rock and quails filled the air. The people's needs were provided for; God did not neglect them. So, with every need of the Christian, there is abundant provision.

February 6

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed (Ps. 37:3).

Our complete victory depends upon our complete trustfulness. We are not to be

spongers of the grace of God, never giving out anything, but active, going about doing good. Faith cures fretting and surmounts every mountain of difficulty. Faith is active as well as obedient. Faith has no notion of starving, but demands a square meal and then proceeds to get it. God honors such a one; there is no defeat.

February 7

For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed (Isa. 50:7).

No cause for faintheartedness here. This divine assurance should raise our faith. Flint-faced, unfeeling; flint, the hardest stone known. "Power of will to endure like this raises supreme admiration and supreme pity." I shall not back down, nor be ashamed *anywhere*.

February 8

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right (Prov. 16:8).

The *inner* life conforming to God's holy will, and the outward activities in harmony, furnishes a value and satisfaction to the individual worth more than the wealth of the world. A *little with righteousness*, and one is a millionaire. God's *blessing* maketh rich. The righteous have *His* blessing.

February 9

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear (Isa. 65:24).

“With unclouded consciousness of union with God, we shall realize certain possessions of blessings, without need or occasion of calling for them. Such is the character of the faith of Christian adoption—a state covering the whole scope of ever-advancing religious life.”

February 10

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him (Matt. 6:8).

But we are to ask Him, for in asking our own inefficiency is known, and we are humbled before God. Prayer raises our hopes, inspires our faith, and intensifies our desire. “As our Father, God is always inclined to hear our prayers, and from His infinite knowledge He has no need of information—as to our necessities.”

February 11

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever (Ps. 23:6).

Followed by two shining and ministering angels—goodness and mercy. Two guardian angels at my back, and at my beck. “All the days of my life.” The cloudy days as well as

the sunshiny; the bleak, cold winter days and the summertime; the days of sorrow and the days of joy. "Goodness supplies our needs, and mercy blots out our sins." I will dwell in an atmosphere typified by the house of the Lord. This shall be my choice *for ever*.

February 12

Them that honour me I will honour (I Sam. 2:30).

God never equivocates from His direct promise. To honor God is the inestimable privilege of each individual; honor Him by accepting Him as a Saviour, by believing His Word, by faith and prayer, by loyalty and service. God never *forgets*, and His loyal children shall be remembered with honor.

February 13

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you (John 15:7).

A provision with an unlimited promise. It is ours to *abide*; it is God's to fulfill. Our *abiding* in Him, and His words abiding in us, presupposes that all of our asking will be according to His will. "If we ask *any thing* according to his will, he heareth us: and . . . we know that we *have* the petitions that we desired of him." No need of spiritual or temporal poverty if we meet conditions.

February 14

O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction (Jer. 16:19).

Many times we would utterly fail, the oppression and persecutions are so severe; but right in the midst of the direst hardships God puts His great, strong arm under us, we are held upright, our hearts are calmed and comforted. *He defends us. Praise Him!*

February 15

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers (I Pet. 3:12a).

The original is more emphatic. *The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears toward their prayers.* That piercing, all-seeing eye of God watches His children; He protects them in time of danger seen and unseen. The righteous ever attract divine notice. They can and ought to pray *anywhere* and *everywhere*, for God is listening. God's ear is constantly open to the faintest cry.

February 16

But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil (I Pet. 3:12b).

His eye is closed, His ear is deaf, His face is turned away. His approbation, His providences, His unlimited blessing are all denied to those who pursue wickedness. Oh, the sub-

lime disaster of wickedness! Let the reader tremble if there is any compromise with sin. "The way of transgressors is hard."

February 17

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (I Pet. 3:15).

To have a sanctified heart is to have a *holy* heart. Holiness is very pleasing to God, and very satisfactory to the individual who possesses it. It gives assurance, boldness, love, and patience. Testimony is spontaneous, and the joy of the Lord is your strength. Holiness of heart is religion made easy.

February 18

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ (I Pet. 3:16).

Conscience is the soul's safety gauge. If wrongly educated it will be a *curse*; if rightly educated it will be a *blessing*. A *good conscience* is a non-accusing conscience. There may be accusation, misrepresentation, and even slander, but when we know that we are guiltless, there is great peace, and sooner or later our enemies will admire us.

February 19

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing (I Pet. 3:17).

If you are suffering because of a right attitude or right living, that is commendable. It shows that you prefer *His authority* to your own peace, ease, or emolument. You can still suffer—and all Christians do more or less—but without condemnation, and often with great glory.

February 20

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God (Phil. 4:6).

Be not *overanxious*; it might soon lead to worry. Thank God often for what He has done, and your *thankful* heart will get you an audience with the King. He will answer your prayer and pour a balm into your heart.

February 21

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

Your heart, the center of the affections, shall not be unsettled or ruffled. There will be harmony and a sense of security. You may not be able to explain it, but you will be clearly conscious of the *keeping power* of Christ, who dwells in your heart. "This is like heaven to me."

February 22

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly (Rom. 16:20).

Our God is Master of the situation. Satan is a conquered foe. Do not magnify him. "I will magnify the Lord." Hold your faith *steady* in Him; He will deliver you. You shall have dominion over your great adversary and all of his agents. Hallelujah!

February 23

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust (Ps. 103:13-14).

Divine compassion and solicitude for His earthly children is commensurate with the loving heart of our Heavenly Father. The simplicity of our trust insures His constant sympathy and protection when we most need it. He will not ask of us more than we are able.

February 24

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty (Job 5:17).

We are not chastened for His pleasure, but for our *profit*. It is a decided mark of the Father's supreme love. "Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth." The chastening for the

time being may not be very pleasant, but afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness. The polishing brings out the shine. We will not grumble.

February 25

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee (Isa. 49:15).

The figure is striking, but the fact is more so. The little baby nestling so closely and trustfully upon the mother's bosom is a picture not easily forgotten. Yet some mothers have forgotten, for the human memory has its limitations. *But God does not forget.* "Thou thinkest, Lord, of me."

February 26

For the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever (I Chron. 28:9b).

A right relation with God insures His attention. His ear is ever open to the cry of the *righteous*. This charge to Solomon is all-comprehensive and magnificent. With the same emphasis, God is beneath every promise He has made to us. How wonderful!

February 27

Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind (I Chron. 28:9a).

To *know* God is the inestimable privilege of every individual. A subjective knowledge, rather than objective. To serve Him with a *perfect heart* is commanded, as well as a privilege. A perfect heart is a *restful* heart, and a heart that is *pure*. This is religion made *easy, comfortable, and enjoyable*. Do you possess it?

February 28

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24).

Note, please, *able to keep you from falling*. No excuse for backsliding but our own negligence. The strength of God and heaven's legions of angels are at our beck and call to hold us. What encouragement! Saved from *all sin* here, and presented *faultless* yonder. Marvelous and inexpressible salvation!

February 29 (Leap Year)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee (Isa. 26:3).

We cannot *keep ourselves*. We submit all to Him, and He does the *keeping*. A mind that

is perfectly peaceful is the product of a heart that is free from sin or disturbance. The *keeping* is continuous, not spasmodic. Our *staying* qualities of mind insure peacefulness of heart.

March 1

The Lord is thy keeper . . . the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand (Ps. 121:5).

Infinite strength for finite weakness. "Kept by the power of God." Something *cooling* about a "shade." Protection from the fierce rays of the sun, that might afflict us. God is our Shade, as near as our shadow. What compassion! What protection!

March 2

I . . . am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (II Tim. 1:12).

A necessary condition, that of *committing ourselves to Him*. Then God's ability is unquestioned. Our safety is measured by His unlimited strength. Against the day of judgment, the day of all days that will test our character. *But He is able.*

March 3

He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee (Isa. 30:19).

Praying with an audible voice is advantageous, often. "The voice of thy cry." No

indication that He *will not* hear the earnest, silent petition; but the *voice* is named and not a few persons are afraid of their voices. Cry, and get His attention. "He shall hear . . . he will answer." Enough.

March 4

Be not afraid, only believe (Mark 5:36).

In the midst of life's severest woes, sometimes inexplicable, sudden. But He knows; therefore, *be not afraid*. "Only" have faith. Deliverance is certain. Faith reaches out its hand through impenetrable gloom, and God is there; and He says, "Let there be light," and *there is light*.

March 5

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John 14:27).

To harbor trouble is usually to multiply trouble. Fear is a species of cowardice. Both trouble and cowardice infringe upon and weaken Christian experience. *Let not your heart be troubled*; God has not left the world, nor forgotten YOU. He will send the Comforter if you will let Him.

March 6

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him (Nah. 1:7).

The Lord is good to His own, and in the hours when He is most needed He is ever

ready. Run to Him, the *Stronghold*, and be safe. His eye is especially upon those who dare to trust Him *through thick and thin*. "He knoweth them." He is delighted with them. Is He acquainted with you?

March 7

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you (Isa. 66:13).

God is speaking to His ancient people through the lips of the prophet. No comfort for the child like that of the mother. The mother's hand, the mother's lap, the mother's soothing words—how well we remember them! God does the same for His children. How comforting for a bruised race!

March 8

Thy right hand upholdeth me (Ps. 63:8).

God's right hand is indicative of strength. Our *weight* is easy for Him to carry. No need of concern or fear. He, with His arm, is underneath. We follow hard because we prize His strength; without Him we are hopeless and helpless.

March 9

Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee (Ps. 50:15).

Thousands have verified this promise. God does not fail His children. But please note: We are to *call upon Him*, not someone else. Our danger is to substitute someone for the

Lord. When we do, we miserably fail. Call upon Him, *first*.

March 10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1).

Trouble is sure to come. The one who has not God to lean upon is usually submerged. Trouble multiplies, and then sadness and remorse, or bitter discouragement. How delightful to run to God! Our "*very present help*"! He helps us through or banishes trouble altogether. Wonderful!

March 11

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matt. 21:22).

Two things to do, *pray* and *believe*. There is much prayer without faith, and there is little faith without unceasing prayer. Prayer begets prayer, and also makes it easy to believe. The promise is limitless—"all things," of course, consistent with the divine will, and for our good.

March 12

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (Jas. 5:16).

How much? Who knows? A righteous man is the *right kind of man*. He is righteous because he knows *how* to pray. One such man prayed the heavens shut; no rain. He prayed again and the heavens were opened, and it

poured. Note: Prayer cures the sick, prayer gets forgiveness, prayer masters the elements, prayer converteth a sinner.

March 13

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name (Ps. 103:1).

Instead of all the time asking, suppose you go to praising. A quiet "Hallelujah!" or a loud "Amen" will often refresh the life and scare the devil away. Blessing the Lord is splendid spiritual exercise. It has a tendency to make a strong, healthy Christian. Try it.

March 14

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Ps. 103:2).

How innumerable are His benefits! "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." God's benefits are enough to shout over. Reflecting upon God's goodness to you will encourage you to trust Him in the future.

March 15

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities (Ps. 31:7).

Despair and downheartedness are never advantageous to a life. Circumstances may be dire and severe, but God knows; His mercy is still to youward. There is something to

rejoice over, something to be cheerful and glad about.

March 16

And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room (Ps. 31:8).

It is never God's plan that one of His children shall be defeated. The enemy cannot prevail unless there is acquiescence upon the part of the individual. God proposes to make a way of escape. Adversity is often a stepping-stone to larger spiritual development. The body may be hampered, but there is a "large room" for the soul.

March 17

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it (Prov. 10:22).

Any blessing that God bestows on the individual is delightful. His blessing may come through poverty, trial, persecution, misrepresentation, or prosperity. The conditions may not always be so favorable, but His blessing makes one forget that through which we have passed.

March 18

Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith (Prov. 15:16).

The rich are far from the happiest people in the world. A Christian "poor" man is

richer than a godless rich man. *Our Father* has the wealth of the entire world at His disposal. We inherit "all things." Why worry? We'll walk on gold streets someday.

March 19

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Do you belong to the "we know" crowd? The calamities, the perplexities, the sudden disappointments, the ills, and *all, work* for our good. It may be inexplicable, but it is as certain as the Word of God is true. "Called according to his purpose"—to holiness of heart and life.

March 20

The Lord preserveth all them that love him (Ps. 145:20).

The conditions must be met if one is to be preserved. "All them that LOVE him." This alone guarantees protection and deliverance. Our case and condition may be beyond human help, but the most difficult places and conditions are *easy* for the Lord.

March 21

But the Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge (Ps. 94:22).

We need not trouble about defending ourselves. Let us be careful with our relationship to God and He will be careful to protect us.

His love is unfailing; His arm is strong; He is the *Rock* of my refuge. Lean hard.

March 22

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isa. 40:31).

In this hurry-up age, our trouble is to take time to wait. Life is so strenuous that often secret prayer is crowded out, much to the loss of the individual. If we will take the time to "wait," God will pour in the strength. The above scripture needs no further comment.

March 23

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is (Jer. 17:7).

Fortunate indeed is the individual whose friend is Jesus Christ. "Blessed," can be written over him. When the storms of life are on, and all earthly help is futile, "with Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm." The sense of safety, security is so comfortable and assuring.

March 24

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him (Isa. 59:19).

The devil is not dead, and we must expect his most subtle and vicious attack. Never fear,

our Father is more than his match. We will implore divine help, and swifter than lightning it will come. Meet the attack of Satan on your knees.

*Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.*

March 25

Fear not, . . . I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward (Gen. 15:1).

Said to Abram, and verified in the most minute detail. The God of Abraham is our God; He *can* and *does* protect His children. Not one of His promises shall fail.

March 26

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations (II Pet. 2:9).

Temptations will surely come, but there is deliverance. Daniel got into the lions' den, but *in the den* he was wondrously delivered. "With the temptation [He will] also make a way to escape." *He knows how*; don't question His ability.

March 27

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart (Ps. 37:4).

Of course, only legitimate desires, of necessity emanating from one who *delights* in the Lord. Only *delight thyself* and then ask, ask, ask, without seeming limit! Who need be

spiritually poor? Who need lack any good thing?

March 28

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil (II Thess. 3:3).

A wobbly, unstable, halfhearted follower of our Lord is not to His pleasing. Go deep enough and strike the rock of establishment. Then you merit His continued favor, and no evil will be able to overcome you.

March 29

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me (Matt. 16:24).

Selfishness is a national sin. *Favoring one's self* seems to be easier to practice than self-denial. But a Christian can no more be selfish than to be untruthful. Christianity rightly interpreted is self-denying, and is very far removed from selfishness. Be careful here.

March 30

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him (II Tim. 2:12).

Then it is worth suffering. But the flesh draws back, and we would rather it would not happen. But He suffered; He knows how to succor us. He reigns; so shall we. "Made perfect through suffering." Our suffering has its rewards.

March 31

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever (Dan. 12:3).

Brilliant, luminous among their fellows. Because they are in favor with God and man. Soul winning is to have its glorious reward. No joy like it here; no glory like it yonder. Strive to be a soul winner.

April 1

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

The more we are *alone with God*, the more familiar we become. Familiarity encourages boldness, and also inspires faith. We are also encouraged to *ask largely*; most people ask so little. Our close relationship with God guarantees a sufficient supply of grace when we need it.

April 2

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge (Prov. 14:26).

"Afraid" to do anything that would wound the heart of our adorable Lord, or bring reproach to His cause. Such of His children shall be under His care; they shall be *safe* when the storms howl.

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April 3

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God (Eccl. 2:26).

Three special and charming bestowments promised the good, the righteous man: "wisdom," "knowledge," "joy." And *only* travail to the sinner. Reader, your *choice* should be quickly and easily made. *But you must choose.*

April 4

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord (Ps. 27:14).

A rapid age and multiplied activities would hinder and distract us. We must *compel* ourselves to take time enough to *pray* and *meditate*. To do this means *heart strength, soul enrichment, victory*. A lack here, and there is sure to be more or less poverty of spirit.

April 5

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13).

A promise conditioned upon faithful discipleship. This condition met, and then there is no restriction in *asking* or *giving*. Ask largely, receive largely. The possibilities of faith and

prayer are limitless. *Hitherto ye have asked nothing.*

April 6

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it (John 14:14).

Note where this remarkable promise is found, *John 14:14*. Associate the numbers and you can remember it. Astonishing, is it not? But conditioned as verse 13, of which it is practically a part. The disciple desires to ask *only* according to the will of God. "Any thing" becomes his for the asking.

April 7

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof (Rom. 6:12).

There is ample provision in the atonement for the *complete* eradication of all sin. Sin of any degree is lamentable weakness. It hinders love, faith, and prayer. Get rid of it if you would have free access to the throne. The joy of *cleanness* is inexpressible.

April 8

Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life (Rom. 6:22).

Sin and *fruitage* are inconsistent. But the *absence* of sin and *fruitage* are harmonious. *Fruitage unto holiness* is the choicest fruit of

all. Holiness is but another word for soul health. Free from sin . . . fruit unto holiness. Is this the *crop* you are raising?

April 9

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me (Ps. 56:11).

We suffer much from others. But God is able, and *will* deliver us from those who would injure us. We are therefore not afraid, for God has more strength than man, and none can really hurt us when He interferes. He is our *Defense*, our *Fortress*, our *Deliverer*.

April 10

There is no want to them that fear him. . . . but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing (Ps. 34:9-10).

Jehovah will not allow His faithful servants to starve. Those who seek God first, last, and all the time will be supplied. Not with dainties or perhaps luxuries, but with that which is substantial and sufficient. If you are in dire need, hold right on. "My God shall supply all your need."

April 11

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (Jas. 4:7).

It is the business of the devil to attack the children of God from every angle. He especially endeavors to reach the soul through the five senses. Resist him, resist him persistently,

and he will go away. "Neither give place to the devil." Do not even tolerate a devilish suggestion.

April 12

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isa. 41:10).

A promise almost incomparable in its breadth. When God's great and mighty *right hand* is exercised in behalf of one of His children, *that child is safe*. Glory! To live within the compass of this gigantic promise is *life* indeed.

April 13

I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them (Ezek. 36:27).

Presupposing the advent of spiritual life. God proposes to augment or actuate this new life with the Holy Spirit in His fullness. He is the great *life* and *light* principle. He will *cause* the fortunate recipient to "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing."

April 14

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy (Prov. 28:13).

Covered sin is ruinous. Men may forget as they go through the labyrinth of life, but God

does not forget. My friend, your only safety is a full and free confession to God. If men have been wronged, you may need to confess to them also. Burn the bridges, uncover here; the judgment bar will be too late.

April 15

And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones (Isa. 58:11).

His guidance—provided we are willing to be guided—will be in paths of safety. There will be no soul hazard, but there will be soul enhancement. His guidance is into larger opportunities for soul development. The way is very narrow, but it is very rich.

April 16

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness (II Cor. 12:9).

“He said.” Note who said it. The One who said it is able to perform. His personal interest, His bestowal of grace when needed, are a sufficient guarantee of victory in *all circumstances* for the individual. *Utter helplessness* finds a speedy and mighty Deliverer.

April 17

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength (Isa. 40:29).

How often, when physical strength seemed exhausted, an unseen arm imparted new

strength! How often, when the spiritual life was waning, an unseen power was infused into the soul! He does it; He knows *when* and *how*.

April 18

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (I Pet. 1:7).

A *tested* faith that withstands the test is a stronger faith for the next battle. Faith untried will grow flabby and weak. Faith *exercised* means faith increased. Therefore, *faith tests* are decidedly beneficial to the soul.

April 19

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy (Ps. 33:18).

This is comforting, for He neither slumbers nor sleeps. Therefore He is always *watching*. Notice the class, "Them that *fear* [love and reverence] him." His eye is on the sparrow; of course it will be on one of His children. If He should see wickedness in any of us, He is grieved.

April 20

If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23).

To the individual who loves Christ, His commandments are not grievous, but a delight. The inexplorable mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwelling in the individual is marvelous. *But it is so.* Considering this magnificent promise, if you are serving the Lord in "your poor, weak way," stop it.

April 21

And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed (Deut. 31:8).

All that God promised to ancient Israel, His chosen people, He promises to us. If we belong to His "peculiar" people, we are heirs of His mighty promises and the recipients of His generous bestowals. Thank God! We are spiritual multimillionaires, with more to follow.

April 22

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice (Ps. 63:7).

MY help. Emphasis on "MY." None other can help like our Father. "Help" meaning more than *helper*. *Strength* when I need it; *deliverance* when all else has failed. "The very shade of God is sweet to a believer." 'Neath

the shadows of His wings is so refreshing; therefore I will rejoice, because I have *much* to rejoice over.

April 23

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint (Luke 18:1).

Those who practice the "art" of prayer, who cry unto Him day and night, who will not be *denied*, are sure of deliverance. Prayer is the safeguard of the soul, the harbinger of peace, the medium of communication between God and man. Mark you the mighty wonders wrought by prayer. Have you learned to *pray*?

April 24

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever (Isa. 40:8).

Permanency, solidity, indestructibility here. To build upon the eternal Word of God is to build upon a *sure* foundation. Believing the Word in its simplicity, practicing its precepts, standing upon its promises, imbibing its doctrine, and enjoying the experiences therein taught is to have days of heaven upon earth.

April 25

My yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt. 11:30).

His yoke is lined with *love*. There is no galling, for He carries the heavy end and lifts the load. But please note, His yoke is easy

after the second rest. When all sin is destroyed in the heart, and the rest of perfect love comes in, then His yoke is *easy*.

April 26

The needy shall not always be forgotten (Ps. 9:18).

How blessed! God's ear is ever open to the cry of the needy, whether for grace or temporalities. He can supply either in His own mysterious way. Cheer up, needy soul; heaven's storehouse is inexhaustible. Pull hard and secure your supply.

April 27

The expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever (Ps. 9:18).

God's poor and the devil's poor. But God's poor are to be cared for. The Bible has much to say in behalf of the poor. And God offers many rewards to those who look after the poor. Poor in this world's goods, but *rich* in the things that make for heaven. It is much better to be a poor man begging bread on earth than a rich man begging water in hell.

April 28

It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good (I Sam. 3:18).

Thus spoke Eli to little Samuel. When the Lord speaks, it is well if we can hear His voice. When the Lord *orders*, it is well if we

are punctual to obey. When the Lord *calls*, it is well if we quickly respond. God never makes a call to a difficult task without making provision for its accomplishment.

April 29

The Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I (I Sam. 3:4).

The Lord has called many since then who have not responded so promptly, and not a few have not responded at all. Our safety always lies in obedience to God's call. He calls us only when He needs us, and when He needs us no other will supply that need. Reader, can you answer, "Here am I"?

April 30

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace (Prov. 3:17).

Referring to *wisdom*, that which cometh from above; simplified, meaning the blessings of true religion. There is nothing better, nothing so rich, so full, so free. Contrast, "The way of transgressors is hard." The way of true religion is delightful.

May 1

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (John 10:14).

The "good shepherd" is careful as to the care and safety of His sheep. He is not asleep,

but *awake*, when there is danger to His flock. He watches in the hour when the wolf is likely to come. Sheep are safe with the "good shepherd" on watch. He *knows* His sheep and they know Him.

May 2

The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet (Nah. 1:3).

To ruthlessly trample underfoot the extended mercy and love of an infinite Father is sure, in the end, to prove disastrous. If the wicked think they will escape punishment, they are woefully mistaken. They punish themselves by their willful disobedience. He has His way in the whirlwind. Has He not power to grapple with and punish wicked men? Reader, do not be deceived. Be on good terms with your Heavenly Father.

May 3

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness (Joel 2:13).

God must see that the *heart* is contrite. External manifestations are not sufficient. "External worship and hypocritical pretensions will only increase the evil, and cause God to

meet you with heavier judgments." A truly penitent heart will immediately attract the attention of God. But mere outward form *with no heart in it* will cause Him to turn a deaf ear.

May 4

The ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein (Hos. 14:9).

His *ways* are past finding out, but His ways are always *right*. To walk in the way of the Lord is to please Him, and bring satisfaction to the one who is walking. To transgress His law is to forfeit His love and mercy. How dreadful to lose so much that is good and gain so much that is evil!

May 5

If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven (Matt. 18:19).

The metaphor is taken from a number of musical instruments, set in the same key and playing the same tune; a perfect orchestration and harmony. Meaning here a perfect agreement of hearts, desires, wishes, and voices of two or more persons praying to God. This kind of praying has great power with God—*He answers*.

May 6

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matt. 18:20).

How comforting to realize that, though unseen by the physical eye, yet *He is in the midst of His praying disciples!* He is listening, He is inspiring, He is guiding, He has a very salient part, and *His presence* brings the deepest peace.

May 7

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life (John 6:47).

This means more than simply *intellectual* believing; it means *heart* believing, or the heart resting its case with Him. No petulance, no unrest, no doubt, but faith that brings the blessing and the soul cries, "Abba, Father." This means *everlasting life*. What a reward for believing on Christ!

May 8

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matt. 5:16).

Do not put your light under a bushel, do not smother your light; but the light of the Christ that shineth in you, *let it shine* that those about you may also be attracted to the Light. It is not sufficient to have light—but

we must walk in the light; we must show by our Christly activities that we have the light, and desire others to have it too.

May 9

But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand (Isa. 32:8).

“Liberal” here means *generous*; he provides generously. The Christ spirit in the heart of any man prompts to generosity. A stingy Christian is a misnomer; there may be stingy church members, but not stingy Christians.

May 10

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come (I Tim. 4:8).

Godliness is both subjective and objective. It is all that Christianity *promises* or *prescribes*. It is the life of God in the soul of a man. It enriches him in time and glorifies him in eternity. *Godliness is profitable* in every walk of life. It means God's favor here, and heaven thrown in for good measure.

May 11

Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction (Isa. 48:10).

There is so much to the most of us that it requires God's refining process to get rid of

the *slag*. Affliction is not pleasant but the results, if rightly received, are glorious. Some must be made perfect through *suffering*. Will we hold still in the hottest fire?

May 12

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me (Ps. 138:7).

If trouble is now upon me, or if it comes upon me later, I will have no fear; God is my portion, and He will either deliver or give me grace to go through. His right hand can uphold a world, or a system of worlds; surely He can uphold me. *Lean hard.*

May 13

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven (Matt. 5:11-12).

If one loves Christ intensely enough, there will likely be a little real persecution, a few slanders, and a few slurs. As long as these are said "falsely" there will be no permanent injury. We are under God's *blessed*; why need we care? "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad" means *jump up and down*.

May 14

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee (Ps. 91:7).

“Ten thousand” could be properly translated *myriad*. Near to danger, but God protects His children from harm. Many have miraculously escaped. God’s Word is true. The three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace; not a hair singed; the form of the *Fourth* was there. He is our God.

May 15

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:20).

Literally, *I am with you every day*. Whenever the laborer may exercise his activities as a Christ messenger, he can be assured of the divine presence of Jesus. Results may not always be seen, but with Him by the side there is no failure.

May 16

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Ps. 126:5-6).

Tears of distress and sorrow over a lost world. Intense emotion that stirs to intense activity. There are not enough Christians in earnest about the salvation of others. The joy

of the harvest is to those who persistently labor. God gives results; sheaves are gathered; there is great rejoicing in heaven and on earth.

May 17

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).

Desperately afflicted, yet if God sees fit to take my life I will continue to trust Him. Indomitable courage and faith. No turning back here.

May 18

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth (Prov. 3:11-12).

The word *chastening* means *correction, discipline, instruction*—all essentially necessary to growth and development. To bear what God may send or permit, trustfully, joyfully, is highly commendable. Do not forget that if you bear correction it is only a proof of God's love to you.

May 19

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing (Zeph. 3:17).

Not a little god, but a GREAT GOD, self-existent, eternal, mighty. It is this God who

saves from *all* sin. Then, He will rejoice; for there is joy in heaven and on earth when a sinner comes home.

*How can I sink with such a prop
As my eternal God,
Who bears the earth's huge pillars up
And spreads the heavens abroad?*

May 20

Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield (Ps. 115:11).

The arm of flesh is too weak, but the arm of the Lord is *strong*. He will bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Why trust anything *earthly* when the God of heaven says, "Trust Me"? He repeatedly says this, that we may not forget and put our trust in something else.

May 21

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief (I Tim. 1:15).

The *chief of saved sinners*. Not the chief of sinners *now*. Paul was exulting over his salvation, not over his sins. If the chief of sinners can be saved, then there is abundant hope for all the rest. Christ is a *Specialist* on hard cases.

May 22

Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full (John 16:24).

How much can be gotten for the asking! There seems to be no limit. God's great heart of love yearns to have His little children *ask largely*; then He pours in the joy—joy unspeakable and full of glory. Timid one, cheer up, put in your big spoon for a full supply.

May 23

If God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

Triumphantly the apostle proclaims that he is not afraid of any opponent in the universe. "Before an infinite defender every finite assailant dwindles into *nothing*, and the Christian stands alone beneath his omnipotent protector." Shall anyone suffer defeat with Omnipotence to assist him?

May 24

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us (Rom. 8:35-37).

Every foe of the Christian is challenged by the brave apostle. He calls each by name and declares the discomfiture of all. Our Christ is a *conquering Christ*, and His disciples are *conquering disciples*.

May 25

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee (Isa. 43:2).

God's children sometimes pass through afflictions most torturing and overwhelming. But our troubles are no greater than those of God's children of the past. Read the eleventh of Hebrews. Are not trials and afflictions a proof of the uprightness of those who are tried? Our God is able to deliver His children whether in a seething furnace or in a lions' den.

May 26

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1)

"My light," "my salvation"—*personal*. He illuminates my darkened soul with His glorious salvation. We are not to be cringing cowards in our profession of Christ, but unflinching intrepidity must characterize His followers. Perfect love casts out fear—cowardice.

May 27

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye (Ps. 32:8).

Divine wisdom is ours for the asking. The disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray." Then

Christ is the *Teacher*, who teaches His children to walk in paths that are pleasant. "As servants take their cue from their master's eye, a nod or a wink is all that they require, so should we obey the slightest hints of our Master. The whispers and love-touches of Jesus should control us."

May 28

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart (Ps. 32:11).

The Christian religion is a religion of joy. Joy so hilarious that it expresses itself in uproarious shouts. Many do not believe in shouting, but the Psalmist did. Perhaps you need something to shout over. Your heart may not be up to the shouting pitch. Maybe you need tuning. Enough grace will do it.

May 29

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (II Tim. 2:1).

"Be strong," is a command, and the command makes possible the fact. We are never commanded to do that which is impossible. Be strong in the *grace*—not in ourselves. Something given to each disciple of Christ from Him. Grace is *light*, and light is *power*. Power to enable one to act according to the light.

May 30

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him (Heb. 10:38).

The just shall live by faith—not feeling. Faith is *going ahead*, not drawing back. If you would please God, go on. Faith furnishes fact, and fact furnishes feeling. You are entitled to them all. Claim what belongs to you.

May 31

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Heb. 10:39).

It is fortunate if you are among this number, for not a few have gone back into the beggarly elements of the world. *Believing* is faith in active relation. *Keep on believing* and there is nothing to fear. The saving of your soul is the most important thing you have on hand.

June 1

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord (Ps. 150:6).

The closing benediction of the Psalms. Most people are behind on their praises, and it is not for lack of breath either; it is usually for lack of experience. A dried-up, unresponsive, cold, worldly heart has no praises. But a *hot heart*, full of the Holy Spirit, has something to praise the Lord about. Have you?

June 2

My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord (Jer. 31:14).

Those who have *tasted of the good word of life* are never heard to complain of the goodness of God. He abundantly satisfies every thirsty soul. Others may prove false and deceive, but our adorable Lord, *never*. His faithfulness to His people is ever unswerving.

June 3

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures (Ps. 36:8).

A superabundance of the choicest food for God's people—"the fatness of thy house." The best, the cream, the top. "God expects the best from us, so He gives the best to us." Not only does He satisfy hunger, but He quenches thirst. "The river of thy pleasure"—not a well, not a pool, but a *river*. Abundance, overflowing, clear, healthful. How true, "They shall be abundantly satisfied"! Do not come to God with a teaspoon; come with a hogshead.

June 4

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart (Jer. 29:13).

This is a very comforting promise to those who think they cannot find Christ. If there

is any failure, the fault is not His, but *yours*. Put the *whole heart* in, and the rays of heavenly sunshine will strike deep into your weary heart. How warm and refreshing when He comes in!

June 5

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:13).

That word "whosoever" takes in the whole world: black, white, yellow, or red. Christ's salvation is for all who will have it. If you have any doubts, *call and see*. You cannot get anything from Him without the asking. Note that word "saved"—here and now, not at some future time. Those who are *saved here* will be saved *throughout eternity*.

June 6

He that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22).

Endureth, and there is always something to endure. The disciples of Jesus were hated and rejected; so was our Lord. We are no better than they. *Enduring* grace, *standing* grace, *conquering* grace is the heritage of the Christian. If we fail, we *lose all*; if we endure, we *gain all*.

June 7

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

A crown made out of *life*. Who can comprehend it? Faithfulness here gets the crown yonder. No cross, no crown. The Bestower is to be Jesus himself. There will be no mistakes; if we are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us. The reward will be generous and ample for all we have suffered.

June 8

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Col. 3:4).

There is no spiritual life apart from Christ. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." When he is manifested in His second coming, those who have His *life* will see Him. "They will share with Him all the developments of the resurrection, and in the glorification of both soul and body." The greater and better things are *up the way*. Hold on!

June 9

Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:26)

But notice the dire contrast, and be warned. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Eternal life is the rich inheritance of everyone who trusts in Christ. Glorious immortality! Christ said, "I am the resurrection, and the life." The

resurrection is one thing, the *life* another.
Wonderful Saviour!

June 10

I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:3).

Jesus makes a positive declaration that He is coming again. *I will come again.* The saints are on tiptoe, looking for His second appearing. But no one knows the day nor the hour; He will come in His own good time. Let us be ready.

June 11

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1-2).

"The sin," whatever it may be, get rid of it; it not only besets the individual, but the more often upsets him. The meaning is a specific hindrance or encumbrance, a sin that encircles or entangles the Christian runner. If you would reach the glorious goal, you must be free from *all sin*. Jesus can make you free.

June 12

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints (Prov. 2:8).

God's pious, devout, holy people are under His continual guidance. Those who walk in

the paths of judgment or justice are safe because of God's protection. "He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly."

June 13

Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother (I John 3:10).

We must first *be* righteous before we can *do* righteousness. All unrighteousness is sin. Sin of any kind will separate the soul from God. None can be half worldling and half Christian. We are either for and with the Lord or against Him. Hatred of a brother means estrangement from the Lord. Where do you belong?

June 14

We know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us (I John 3:24).

Salvation is not a theory or an abstract, ethereal illusion. "*We know*" is as indelibly stamped upon the heart, testifying to our salvation, as that *we know* that we have an existence. The Holy Spirit certifies to our sonship, and the heart is satisfied.

June 15

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious (I Pet. 2:7).

"Precious Jesus!" is an exclamation that often arises from the pure in heart. "He is the fairest among ten thousand." None to

compare with Jesus, our adorable Lord! The nearer we are to Him, the more precious He is. Is your soul exulting in Christ?

June 16

Godliness with contentment is great gain (I Tim. 6:6).

Put the emphasis on *is*. Contentment is one result of godliness. The two are a great gain to any soul. Divine approbation and heavenly riches assured. Temporal prosperity in not a few cases and spiritual prosperity in all. Godliness is a *great gain*.

June 17

All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God (II Cor. 1:20).

God is true; therefore His promises are all true. Every promise is a check upon the bank of heaven. It is said that there are *thirty thousand* promises; these all belong to the Christian. Stand with your *whole weight* on the promises; they will not break.

June 18

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matt. 24:35).

The indestructibility of the eternal Word of Truth. Safety, permanency, and heavenly reward, when we build upon the great Word of God. Christ's prediction as to the Temple and the Jews would not fail. His word is just

as sure to us. What He says will come to pass. *Only believe.*

June 19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Num. 23:19)

The conception of some men is a *little god*, hardly so large as a man. How dwarfed is such a conception! Omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent; infinite in power and might. He comprehends the dust of the earth in a measure; He weighs the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance. We have a great, incomprehensible God, who spake and it was done. He is able to care for us *little folk*.

June 20

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding (Isa. 40:28).

The imagination of the prophet is limited by the use of words. He cannot express his conception of the greatness of God. How wonderful that He who sits upon the circle of the earth is *our Heavenly Father!* He cares so tenderly for His children.

June 21

I . . . will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (II Cor. 6:17-18).

The tenderest relationship, a *loving Father*. *Strong* for our protection; *loving* and *sympathetic* in response to our appeal; shielding us by His marvelous providences, and rewarding His children according to their faithfulness. Our Father; yes, a little nearer, MY FATHER!

June 22

He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper (Ps. 72:12).

Christ is a Friend of the friendless. The true Christian is a friend of the poor. The unfortunate get but little sympathy from the cold, bleak, unsympathetic world. But God's people are ever ready to minister to the needy. You can measure your love for Christ by your love for humanity.

June 23

It shall be well with them that fear God (Eccles. 8:12).

This is no idle statement. God's children, those who trust Him implicitly, are subject to afflictions, sorrows, and disappointments, just like others. But they know where to go for comfort, and God always comforts the sor-

rowing heart. "Casting *all* your care upon him; for he careth for you."

June 24

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows (Isa. 53:4).

He trod the wine press alone. He climbed Golgotha's rugged sides under the weight of His own cross. He suffered the excruciating pain of the driven nails. He was despised and rejected of men. He *knows how* to sympathize with broken and bleeding humanity. Your sorrows and troubles are not so great as he endured.

June 25

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28).

An invitation as wide as the needs of the human race. The *rest* that Jesus promises is *rest of soul*, freedom from the pollution and practice of sin. There is a rest that remaineth for the children of God, and they who have believed do enter in. If you are weary and heavy laden with many perplexities, *try Him*.

June 26

For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world (I John 5:4).

The devil is more than a match for any man without Christ. But when one has been "born again" or, as Harold Begbie puts it, "twice born," that one has supernatural strength to

help him, and then he can defeat Satan on any battlefield. Card signers, trail hitters, and the like without the *new birth* easily capitulate under the devil's guns.

June 27

Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (II Cor. 10:5).

Not an impossibility. *Every thought* in harmony with Him. This high state of Christian experience may not be reached instantly; but perseverance in holy living will lead to permanency of character where the mind is *stayed upon Christ*.

June 28

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me (Ps. 139:23-24).

This is a sincere, honest prayer. To the one who makes it, God will reveal any hidden sin or obstruction that ought not to be there. We are not afraid of God's searchlight if we desire to be right. He knows our hearts better than we know ourselves.

June 29

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (Eph. 4:31).

We cannot do this of ourselves; God must help us by removing the source of such troubles. What a surcease to be delivered from

anger! What a glorious victory to be able to not speak *anything* evil! A *clean heart, filled with perfect love*, makes it possible to meet the apostle's injunction.

June 30

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Eph. 4:32).

Just the opposite from the way worldly people generally treat each other. It's an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, with them. Kindness, and a heart that is tender, is the Christ spirit. His disciples must imitate Him if He is to be lifted up and draw all men to Him.

July 1

Serve him with a perfect heart and a willing mind (I Chron. 28:9).

Do not be afraid of that word *perfect*. The requirement is that the heart be perfect. God alone can give us perfect hearts—free from sin. A perfect heart can exist with a good many other imperfections. *Perfect in our love* is the only perfection taught in the Bible. All can have this who will seek it.

July 2

If thou seek him, he will be found of thee (I Chron. 28:9).

For salvation, for sanctification, for help in time of trouble, for temporal assistance, for sickness, for direction in business, for help

anger! What a glorious victory to be able to not speak *anything* evil! A *clean heart, filled with perfect love*, makes it possible to meet the apostle's injunction.

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July 2

If thou seek him, he will be found of thee (I Chron. 28:9).

For salvation, for sanctification, for help in time of trouble, for temporal assistance, for sickness, for direction in business, for help

in domestic life; *seek Him*, and He will be found of thee, and will help thee. Glory!

July 3

Order my steps in thy word (Ps. 119:133).

If we do not know how to walk, God's Word will tell us. His word is a *Lamp to our feet, and a Light unto our pathway*. We need not stumble or fall or be *ditched*. If we will but look into the Book, we need not be sidetracked. See the five "walks" in Ephesians: 2:1-2; 4:1; 4:17; 5:2; 5:15.

July 4

Pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17).

How can one do that? It does not mean the *attitude* of prayer, always on your knees. But the *spirit* of prayer, always ready to call upon God anywhere, everywhere. Not always audibly, but more often silently. Thus we live a *life of prayer*. Praying on your knees is commendable; get there as often as circumstances will allow.

July 5

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you (Jas. 4:8).

Draw nigh to God in *prayer*; meet Him in your secret closet, and He will draw nigh to you and whisper His secrets into your soul. The enemy—the devil—cannot stand before a

praying saint. If you neglect prayer, you are likely to be defeated.

The weakest saint upon his knees can make the devil flee.

July 6

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain (Jas. 5:17-18).

What limitless possibilities are involved in prayer! Elijah declared to wicked Ahab that there should not be so much as dew upon the grass. And it was so. The God of Elijah is our God. Prayer will move Him.

July 7

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him (Acts 12:5).

A little prayer meeting around the corner (Acts 12:12) was heard of God and the prison doors flew open and Peter walked out. Prayer is effectual not only for ourselves but for others. Whatever the difficulties, they are surmountable by prayer. Paul and Silas *prayed* and the old Philippian jail shook as with an earthquake. We can shake things too, by prayer.

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July 8

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss (Jas. 4:3).

Much prayer is *unworthy*; the *motive* back of the prayer is selfish and not commendable to God. Many seem to desire to use God as a *convenience*. This attitude always frustrates prayer. Be sure your motive is right, and then your prayers will get through. Self-examination in prayer is commendable.

July 9

He giveth his beloved sleep (Ps. 127:2).

God's holy people have no moral disturbance. They *rest* their case in Jesus' arms. They are not petulant or fretful. When they lie down, God's angels watch over them; they do not go to bed to worry, *but to sleep*. Sleep refreshes, rests, invigorates. Unless there is physical impairment—and often then—the breath of God is on the soul, the mind is at ease, the pain ceases, and the weary eyes close in slumber.

July 10

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet (Prov. 3:24).

The wicked are like the troubled sea, but the righteous lie down in peace and quietness. There is no fear; for if death should

come, the soul would wing its way into eternal glory. God keeps watch above His own. "Thy sleep shall be sweet." Is this not wonderful?

July 11

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling (Ps. 91:10).

God has a way of protecting His people in a time of calamity. This psalm is a great consolation in a time of plague or calamity. Only that can come to God's people which is for their good. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

July 12

There shall no evil happen to the just (Prov. 12:21).

Righteousness is decidedly advantageous in every phase and walk of life. God's protecting arm is about those who implicitly put their trust in Him. The enemy cannot get *even his hand* upon one of God's dear children. "Saved from the hand of the enemy." Bless His name!

July 13

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters (Ps. 23:2).

He maketh me to lie down in *tender grass*. Grass easily digested. I can have my fill, even though my teeth are poor. My food, my comfort, my rest. The water is placid, cool, and refreshing. A delightful figure to inspire God's children!

July 14

With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation (Isa. 12:3).

The Christian religion is the only religion of joy. "Fulness of joy" is the heritage of every child of God. When joy is absent from the heart there is need for self-examination. "Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." A paradox, but true. "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

July 15

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance (Ps. 89:15).

There is a difference between *hearing* and *knowing*. Thousands hear the glad and joyful message of the gospel but give little heed to it. But those who *know* because of inward revelation and experience, they are the "blessed." The gospel is the "joyful sound" to a lost world. Those who heed its call will *walk in the light of His countenance*.

July 16

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you (John 14:27).

Peace and joy come to the heart at the same time that salvation is received. "Being justified by faith, we have *peace* with God." Peace, deep, lasting, that flows like a river. In the entirely sanctified, *perfect peace*, that passeth

understanding. Think of this glorious combination, *peace and joy*.

July 17

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them (Ps. 119:165).

A charming verse. They love the law of God with a heart filled with *perfect love*. The obstructions to love have been eliminated; hence it is easy to love the law of God. These shall not be offended—or stumble or fall. They have victory over all temptation. The enemy cannot *down* them.

July 18

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly (I Thess. 5:23).

The God of *peace*, the Author of *peace*, the Giver of *peace*, who sent the Prince of *Peace*, who proclaimed a gospel of *peace*, which brings *peace* to each heart who will receive Him. A *peaceful* life amidst unpeaceful surroundings; a *peaceful* death, and a *peaceful* heaven forever.

July 19

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you (I Pet. 4:12).

Remember that you are not the exception. Others bear greater burdens than you. If you are in the furnace of affliction, hold still; the refining process is to bring out the *pure gold*

of your life. You will come forth as gold, tried in the fire.

July 20

Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy (I Pet. 4:13).

If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. He knows of the afflictions, the hardships, the persecutions of His people. In the judgment they are to be rewarded. "The toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way."

July 21

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).

Christ is the great Burden Bearer of the whole world. His disciples are to be like Him, sharing the burdens of others and thus imitating their Master. It's a real joy to be able to lift the burden of a tired, struggling soul. Have you tried it?

July 22

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble (Ps. 41:1).

Our timely interest in behalf of those who are unfortunate and lack in this world's goods is a happy bestowment that wins the favor not only of men but of God. Our thoughtfulness of the poor will not lose its reward. More

should be interested in helping the worthy poor. There are numerous opportunities if we will only look for them.

July 23

Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength (Isa. 26:4).

We trust our most loyal friends, and often are deceived. But God has never failed anyone who *leaned hard* upon His promises. His everlasting arms, with everlasting strength, are underneath His children. He never betrays a trust. Do not fail to trust Him implicitly.

July 24

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price (Isa. 55:1).

A prophetic promise, fulfilled in Christ, flung out to a needy world. Magnanimous, all-inclusive, and no discrimination. Every hungry soul can feed upon the *best*; enough for each, enough for all, and enough forevermore.

July 25

To do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Heb. 13:16).

There is always a source of satisfaction in doing good. It blesses the one ministered to and the one who ministers. Prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and mercy to men, are all

well-pleasing in the sight of God. Such sacrifices are sure evidences that one is a Christian.

July 26

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (Jas. 1:4).

Individuals pray for patience, and God sends more trials. It takes trials to increase patience. Long-suffering is patience extended. Perfect love in the heart is an incentive to patience and a great advantage as well.

July 27

The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you (II Chron. 15:2).

God only requires self-devotement and faithfulness. We have no valid claim upon God when we are not true to Him. Not a few seek God in an emergency who have nothing of service and faithfulness to recommend them. That is why God does not answer. How important then that we live lives that please Him!

July 28

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God (Heb. 3:12).

“Unbelief” is linked to an “evil heart.” An evil heart, unless there is true repentance, has no favor with God. Unbelief is a heinous sin

in the sight of God. The children of Israel failed to reach the promised land because of *unbelief*. Let no *unbelief* lodge in your heart.

July 29

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself (I John 5:10).

God never repudiates faith, but always responds to it. That *inner witness* is as indubitable as self-existence. No one is ever in doubt as to his salvation when God gets through with him. Better wait upon God until *He tells you* that you have "passed from death unto life."

July 30

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened (Matt. 9:29).

Other blind eyes have been opened in response to faith. Thousands blinded by sin have looked in faith to Jesus, and their eyes have been opened.

*There is life for a look
At the crucified One.*

July 31

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him (Eph. 3:12).

The true children of God do not have to sneak around to approach Him. Like a child coming to its loving, earthly parent, with love, confidence, and boldness, we come to our

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Heavenly Father. By faith we secure what we need, and faith is limitless. "According to your faith be it unto you."

August 1

Neither give place to the devil (Eph. 4:27).

He will seek for a foothold through all of the five senses. Resist him, and he will flee from you. A *pure heart* has no place for the devil, unless we volitionally admit him. The devil has no place in anyone, unless that one gives him a place. Jesus has power to cast him out, and to *keep him out*.

August 2

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted (Heb. 2:18).

His temptations were extremely severe, and aimed at the most vulnerable point. The attack of the enemy was subtle, insidious, and persevering. But Jesus withstood every temptation, and He knows *how to sympathize* with His children and *how to deliver them*.

August 3

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

Omit the italics, *we are, yet*, which are used to supply the grammar and sense, and you

have, "tempted like as without sin." Jesus was tempted like a man without sin; He had no inward sin principle. A man cleansed from "inbred" sin ever afterward is tempted like a man *without sin*. A holy heart has a decided advantage in temptation.

August 4

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him (Jas. 1:12).

Temptation is permitted by our Lord to supply spiritual muscle. If there is no fighting, there will be no victories. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," and in doing so we are stronger for the next attack.

August 5

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (Jas. 1:2-3).

One of the most delightful graces in Christian character is *patience*. Strange, how God gives us patience by giving us more trials and more temptations. We are to be joyful when these afflictions come to us, because it means more patience.

August 6

Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

Another way of saying, "Because I will furnish strength so that My disciples can over-

come too." How exhilarating to remember that our adorable Lord *can* and *will* deliver us! God's children need not suffer defeat.

August 7

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward (Heb. 10:35).

The devil is ever ready to suggest and whisper into the soul, "Oh, give up; there's no use trying. You cannot hold out; give up, give up." An everlasting dingdong in the ears of a Christian. When such is the case, hold on the tighter. Plead the blood of Jesus, and Satan will hike right out. Glory!

August 8

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee (Job 22:27).

There is nothing more sure than that God answers prayer. In the hour of temptation, bereavement, affliction, sorrow, loss, or injury, call upon Him; He will answer thee. Then too, ask Him about your business plans, investments, and the like. If more men would pray over investments, there would be fewer losses.

August 9

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded (II Chron. 15:7).

God's dear children are constantly urged by the Word to be strong. "Strong in the Lord,

and in the power of his might." "Strengthened with might by his Spirit." Enduring, courageous, bold, victors. This is God's thought for all His children. *Do not fall down easy.*

August 10

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty (Job 22:25-26).

"To those whom God loves best He gives the most earthly good. The rich and the great are His high favorites; the poor and distressed He holds as His enemies." This is the doctrine of Eliphaz, and has a counterpart in many of the world today. But the gospel is so different. For example, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus." "We love him, because he first loved us." *Riches of grace, rather than riches of silver.*

August 11

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded (Prov. 13:13).

God hath spoken through His Word. It is unchangeable. A simple, unswerving, unalterable faith in the Bible will bring great peace and confidence to the individual. Let no doubt or unbelief ever enter your mind concerning the eternal Word of God.

August 12

They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee (Jer. 1:19).

The God of Jeremiah and the God of the Israelites is our God. His strength and His interest in His children have not diminished. The promised deliverance for them is for us when we are assailed. What an almighty arm we have to lean upon!

August 13

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way (Ps. 37:23).

One has said who was not a Christian, yet he spoke divine truth, "If a man will choose God for his Friend, he shall travel securely through a wilderness that hath many beasts of prey in it; he shall pass safely through this world, for he only is safe that hath God for his Guide."

August 14

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand (Ps. 37:24).

This verse belongs to the twenty-third. The word "fall" does not mean a moral fall, a falling into sin; but falling into trouble, distress, or affliction; he may be discouraged, but God has not forsaken him. The right hand of God is underneath him. How comforting!

August 15

For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called (Isa. 54:5).

Referring to the Church of God under the Old Testament, within the narrow bounds of the Jewish nation; so small and seemingly at times deserted of God, *thine husband*. But God is with His Church, and His people. He never deserts them; we of today can rest assured of that. He is the *God of the whole earth*.

August 16

In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword (Job 5:20).

God's people are highly favored. In the usual calamities of life, comparatively, they are very often delivered. Some who are called God's children are not; these often suffer. Godliness, however, is *great gain*, and we speak from experience.

August 17

One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you (Josh. 23:10).

One with God is a *majority*, and one with God means *victory*. God not only strengthens the one, but He puts fear into the hearts of the enemy. A real Christian is not a weakling

by any means. Be sure you chase *your* thousand.

August 18

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you (Josh. 1:3).

This has reference to the land of Canaan, which is a type of perfect love. Spiritually, one can have all the territory he can possess. Put on your *running shoes*, my friend, and get thee to the hill country. The grapes and honey are up there.

August 19

Be strong and of a good courage (Josh. 1:6).

This is God's exhortation to Joshua. He says the same to His people today. Do not be flabby, weak, spineless, good-for-nothing. Hold up thy head; war a valiant warfare; strike the enemy between the eyes; your victory is assured. The God of Joshua is thy God.

August 20

The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth (I Kings 17:14).

There are those among God's children that are always afraid of going to the poorhouse. It is better to go to heaven from a poorhouse than to go to hell from a palace. The God of Elijah still lives, and He is able to supply meal and oil if the emergency demands. Can you trust Him?

August 21

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me (Isa. 49:16).

Indelibly fixed. No water or soap can wash it away. God sees us continually; He is therefore mindful of our every need. He neither slumbers nor sleeps; we can reach His ear at any time. How glorious!

August 22

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life (Prov. 22:4).

God makes some munificent promises to His children who are faithful and measure up to the divine standard. "Riches"—not so much silver and gold as spiritual riches, infinitely more valuable. "Honour," worthy of confidence, and "life"—lengthened here and eternal yonder. Marvelous!

August 23

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up (Jas. 4:10).

Humility is a pearl of great price. The Word recognizes this delightful characteristic as a Christian grace of inestimable value. "Pride"—the opposite of humility—"goeth before destruction." Beware of pride! But cultivate the grace of humility.

August 24

Through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins (Acts 10:43).

The remitting of every sin is a tremendous transaction between the individual and God. When this is accomplished the individual is *justified* in the sight of God; God directly witnesses to the inner consciousness of the man, so that there is no doubt. The event is epochal.

August 25

For we walk by faith, not by sight (II Cor. 5:7).

It is very important that we keep this in mind. The evidence of salvation is usually so ecstatic, the *feeling* so delightful and satisfying, that some are prone to lean upon their feelings. Never do this; trust God, feeling or no feeling, in the dark as well as in the light. Remember, you are *walking by faith*.

August 26

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26).

We are saved *by faith*, and then we *walk by faith to keep saved*. The Christian does not depend upon circumstances, for in that event the circumstances are so varied, and often so troublesome, one would never be able to rest confidently. But through *thick and thin*, with unwavering faith, we march triumphantly on, our faith centered in Him.

August 27

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief: but was strong in faith, giving glory to God (Rom. 4:20).

Abraham *did not* have the staggers, as many modern Christians seem to have. Abraham stepped out on the promise with his *whole weight*. The promise did not break, and Abraham was safe. He has been an example of unwavering faith throughout the whole world, and will be as long as time shall last.

August 28

Being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform (Rom. 4:21).

Able also, note these two words. There was no doubt whatever in Abraham's mind as to the *strength* of God or as to His *ability*. When *able also* is settled in the mind, one can push on into any service or sacrifice God may demand.

August 29

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Gal. 3:14).

The blessing of *justification by faith*, and then the subsequent blessing of the *gift of the Holy Spirit*, or *sanctification by faith*. These include the highest degree of spiritual life, perfect peace, and eternal glory.

August 30

To them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (II Pet. 1:1).

“Precious faith,” or faith of rare value; faith that cost a great deal, of inestimable value, costly—that is the meaning. Our faith that saved us was purchased at a great price—*Christ on Calvary*. It was purchased by the blood of Christ; therefore, it is of infinite value. Let us so treasure it.

August 31

That ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3).

If Jude thought it necessary for the Church in his day to earnestly contend for the faith, it would seem in this day we should strenuously contend for the old faith of the gospel. The *common salvation* for both Jews and gentiles is the saving grace of God for everyone who will receive it.

September 1

I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Matt. 9:13).

This superb utterance of Christ takes in every sinner throughout the entire world. None are rejected. The vilest of the vile may come and be washed as white as snow. The only requirement is *repentance*, and that

means, in brief, the *turning your back upon all sin and sinful practices.*

September 2

Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore (Ps. 37:27).

There is no lasting pleasure in wrongdoing; but there is lasting pleasure in *right doing.* *Being good and doing good go hand in hand.* God's munificent reward is, *evermore at His right hand.* My friend, it is worth striving for.

September 3

See . . . that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise (Eph. 5:15).

The word *circumspectly* is from the Latin *circumspicio*, which means to look round about on all hands; to be in every way watchful, wary, cautious, in order to avoid danger, and discern the enemy before he can come nigh. It also means to walk correctly, accurately, consistently, or perfectly. We can do this only by the help of the Lord.

September 4

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16).

Buying up the precious moments that others throw away. Make every moment count. Value your time; let not a minute be lost. Time is that upon which eternity depends. Time is all you have to get ready for heaven. If one

does not thus prepare here, the loss will be irretrievable.

September 5

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

To "be filled with the Spirit" is a command as definite and direct as any in the old Decalogue. The command carries with it the possibility of the experience. This glorious experience is for every child of God. It is the divine equipment for *living* and for *usefulness*. Do not fall short of it.

September 6

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Eph. 6:10).

"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." *Power* is translated from a Greek word meaning *dynamite*. This is God's idea for His people and His Church. Not weaklings, but strong, powerful, filled with dynamite. Not strong of ourselves, but strong in Him.

September 7

The Lord loveth the righteous (Ps. 146:8).

God richly provides for the making of men holy, and then He rewards them for living holy, and richly manifests His love toward them. Then when death comes, God's holy people are triumphant, and cross to a holy heaven, especially prepared by God for His

holy people. It pays immensely to be righteous, to "stand in" with the Lord.

September 8

He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee (Deut. 7:13).

This is spoken of God's ancient people, *providing* they keep His commandments. It is just as applicable to us. God will do no less for His children now than for those of the past. Three special favors: *love thee, bless thee, multiply thee*. How generous is our adorable Lord!

September 9

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely (Hos. 14:4).

How unfortunate to backslide! But some do, and they usually taste the bitter dregs of hell. God graciously invites them back, and says that He will heal all the old sores caused by sin, and adopt the unfortunate backslider into the family again. Brother, if this applies to you, *come home*.

September 10

I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee (Jer. 31:3).

"With a love of long standing have I loved thee." I have loved thee; I will continue to love thee. God's people seemed to forget His mercies so soon, yet God never changes toward

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them. His great heart of love is always true. His attitude toward His children now is just the same. How measureless is the love of God to usward!

September 11

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest (Gen. 28:15).

There can be no failure when God is with us. His repeated promises to Israel were always verified. His promises to us are just as sure. Obedience guarantees the presence and help of God.

September 12

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber (Ps. 121:3).

The watchful eye of God is ever over His children. Night and day He guards them; a thousand providences are about them, and frequently they are kept from dangers seen and unseen. God is anxious for our safety and final triumph.

September 13

When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O Lord, held me up (Ps. 94:18).

The soul is very often tried to the utmost; the shadows are deep and dark, not a ray of light ahead. But God is behind the cloud, and at the faintest cry of His endangered child He is upon the scene to help. With His strong arm underneath, we need not fall.

September 14

In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul (Ps. 94:19).

It is a good thing to meditate upon the goodness of God. Remembering His mercies, His deliverances, His answers to prayer, His choice blessings, the soul is delighted. How gracious is our God to thus bless His children!

September 15

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (Jas. 2:5)

One can be poverty-stricken in material things and be a multimillionaire in grace. God is especially pleased with those who are *rich in faith*. Heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ to "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." Glory!

September 16

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: for the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them (Prov. 22:22-23).

It is clearly indicated throughout the Word that God cares for the poor and oppressed. If those who oppress the poor think that God forgets, they are sadly mistaken. The final day of reckoning will show that God will see that the poor have justice.

September 17

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength (Isa. 30:15).

Those who are *settled* in the Lord are not disturbed when the storms of life are on. They just nestle up a little closer to the side of their Lord. They know that His sheltering wing will protect them.

September 18

Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man (Eph. 3:16).

"Serving the Lord in my poor, weak way" is not God's purpose for His children. The power of God through His Holy Spirit is to make us strong to fight the enemy and resist temptation. We therefore need not be *weaklings*.

September 19

The Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel (Joel 3:16).

"There shall be great commotions in powerful empires and their dependencies; but in all these things His own people shall be unmoved, for God shall be their *hope* and *strength*." How blessed to have the Lord on our side when wars and pestilences come!

September 20

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14).

Victors over the most terrible persecutions, they stand unmovable, because the blood of the Lamb has been applied to their hearts. They stand before the throne of God in the *righteousness of the saints*, a righteousness wrought in them by Christ himself.

September 21

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts (Luke 1:51).

Grotius has well observed that God's efficacy is represented by His *finger*, His *great power* by His *hand*, and His *omnipotence* by His *arm*. His arm is underneath His children. Lean hard; it can hold up a world. Haughty men, who imagine that they own the universe, are very small in the sight of God.

September 22

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son (Rev. 21:7).

Earthly possessions may be very limited here, but if we persist in faithfulness to Christ, we shall inherit all that heaven possesses. What an inexpressible transition from earthly

poverty to heavenly riches! It will pay us to be faithful.

September 23

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7).

The excellencies of Christian experience are beyond human expression; the *joy* of the Lord, *perfect peace*, *perfect love*, the *riches of the glory*, and many like expressions, indicate the blessedness of our inheritance here. But these all fade into insignificance compared with the inexpressible bliss of the heavenly state. What must it be to be in the "midst of the paradise of God"?

September 24

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death (Rev. 2:11).

Our persistency, our steadfastness, our determination to prove faithful unto the end of earthly life will work out for us an exceeding, great reward. *Eternal* life with the redeemed of earth is our final reward for faithfulness.

September 25

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end (Heb. 3:14).

"An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away" is promised to those who *hold out* unto the end. All that

Christ has purchased by His blood is to be ours to enjoy forever. What a glorious incentive for each one to press through to final victory!

September 26

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised) (Heb. 10:23).

Note: *profession of faith*, not *profession of feeling*. We can profess our faith when we have but little feeling, and we can profess our faith when we feel dull, sick, full of pain, and other troubles. Note again: *hold fast* the profession of your faith under all circumstances.

September 27

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Eph. 6:13).

The *whole armour* must mean a complete salvation from all sin. For sin of any kind is a weakness. The *armour* is a protection. The divine provision is ample if we will only appropriate it. The "evil day" is no doubt on the trail of each of us, but we need not fear if we have on the *whole armour*.

September 28

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal. 6:9).

"The toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way." Over-

coming the *tiredness* and *inertia* of our own bodies is no small victory. *Well doing* has its constant reward and refreshes the soul. This will help us to persevere unto the end.

September 29

And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

This is an event worthy of our most determined effort to reach. The "blesseds" of the Bible are all rich with blessing, but this particular "blessed" is richer than all the others. Shall you, my friend, be among the *called*?

September 30

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Rev. 22:12).

The Infinite Adjuster will make no mistake. There will be no favorites or discriminations. The life of every one is written down; each will face his own record, and there will be no equivocation. How glorious to look back over a life well spent in the service of Christ! How sweet will be the reward!

October 1

Behold, mine Angel shall go before thee (Exod. 32:34).

The ministry of angels is a very fascinating study of the Word. Evidently God's children now enjoy such ministry when the crises de-

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mand. *One angel* destroyed one hundred and fourscore and five thousand of the Assyrians. God need not use many such angels to defend us.

October 2

I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel (Jer. 31:9).

How gentle and loving God is with His people! He only desires their supreme pleasure, their holiest enjoyment. "Rivers of waters" so refreshing; "a straight way," so safe! "I am a father to Israel"; He is our Father too.

October 3

He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths (Isa. 2:3).

The obedient child of God is always a learner. He listens to the voice of God in the soul and is always careful to be admonished or encouraged. God teaches His children, and they walk in His paths and are thus prosperous and safe.

October 4

For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death (Ps. 48:14).

The God who so miraculously guided the children of Israel, who shielded the prophets, and overshadowed the apostles and early disciples, He it is that protects and cares for His children now. He will never forsake us if we never forsake Him.

October 5

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Prov. 3:6).

Acknowledging God, faithful to God, serving God, and like expressions are abundant in the Bible; our faithfulness guarantees God's guidance and protection. We hardly have a right to claim God's protection when we are unfaithful to Him. Have you thought about that?

October 6

The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way (Prov. 11:5).

"Perfect" is repelling to many. But God only requires *perfect love* in the heart. Who is afraid of that? Not perfection of mind or body, not infallibility, but a perfect heart; loving God with ALL the heart, and your neighbor as yourself.

October 7

For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God (I Pet. 2:20).

One can expect punishment for wrongdoing. There is no credit if we are patient. But to be constantly assailed, misrepresented, and maligned, and to bear it all patiently, this shows solid character and is pleasing to God.

October 8

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise (Heb. 10:36).

There is no way to patience except through the severest trials. When you pray for patience, God will, no doubt, send you affliction and tribulation. If you bear up well, your patience will have increased. "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Patience is an admirable characteristic.

October 9

The hope of the righteous shall be gladness (Prov. 10:28).

Deeper than the wounds of a friend or the stab of an enemy or the unfortunate vicissitudes of life is the hope planted in the soul by Christ himself. The stormy surface cannot affect the deep, inward calm; so that, in spite of the world, the flesh, and the devil, the soul can be glad.

October 10

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord (Hos. 6:3).

Indisputable evidence will flow into the soul, making it certain that we have not believed in vain. If we continue to maintain our faith, we shall continue to know, and this knowledge will not diminish, but will increase.

October 11

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself (John 7:17).

Anyone who chooses to do the will of God from his heart, God will guide him into all truth. He will not be deceived, but will be richly rewarded with the assurance of salvation. This is a very simple recipe, and Christ throws it out as a test to the whole world.

October 12

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (Jas. 1:5).

In the preceding verse James is speaking about the *perfect*. Do you lack wisdom about *perfection of love*? Ask of God, and He will supply your lack. All spiritual desires are especially pleasing to God.

October 13

Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit (I John 4:13).

The *certainty of sonship* is as indubitable as the stars. God never keeps His children in doubt. From the inception of salvation the Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are the children of God. It is not well to rest easy without this witness.

October 14

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).

The Holy Spirit is as tender as the apple of the eye. He is easily grieved, and we must be careful not to grieve Him. *Sealed*, by the divine seal, as a title deed is sealed. The regenerated soul has the seal of the Spirit, a true title deed of the elect.

October 15

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts (II Cor. 1:22).

A divine impression on the soul that is unforgettable. *The earnest of the Spirit*—a clear testimony of the Spirit to our acceptance, and a promise as well for the future; everlasting life is written large across the heart of every regenerated child of God.

October 16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Rom. 8:14).

The Holy Spirit will never lead a child of God into a questionable place or a place that might jeopardize the soul. He leads into larger light, larger joy, and larger blessing. How delightful to follow Him! Make sure that He is leading.

October 17

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

The plan of salvation is so wide that the provision is for *all*. Anyone, anywhere, who repents and believes can be saved. There is no distinction; "Whosoever will" may come and "take the water of life freely." This makes Christ the Saviour of the *whole world*.

October 18

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world (Titus 2:12).

We cannot be mixed up with sin and sinfulness without great danger of becoming besmirched. Christians are separate from the world. This world is the place to live a holy life. The provision is ample; all we need to do is to appropriate it. Will we do it?

October 19

The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down (Ps. 146:9).

Strangers in ancient times were looked upon with suspicion. There was scarcely a place for them, but God made provision for their care. God sees the unfortunate condition of the fatherless and widow; they excite His compassion; He lifts them up. But the wicked do not have His favor.

October 20

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward (Matt. 10:42).

It is the spirit of our helpfulness and philanthropy that merits a reward, the *motive* that prompts our bestowal of charity. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these . . . ye did it unto me." A purely *advertising* philanthropy merits nothing and gets nothing. But the Christ spirit merits a reward and gets it.

October 21

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain (I Cor. 9:24).

Many start in the race of life and hope to make heaven, but fall out by the way. The apostle is urging each one to be a *prize winner*. Those who are *faithful unto death* get the crown. My friend, make up your mind to win the race; it will richly repay for all the effort put forth.

October 22

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest (Eccles. 9:10).

A halfhearted service, a listless doing is not pleasing to God and is no help to the indi-

vidual. Put some "pep" into your activities, especially those that help to build up the kingdom of God. When life is ended your efforts cease. *Do your very best now.*

October 23

If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Pet. 1:8).

What things? Faith, virtue, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity (or love). This constellation of graces so admirable in every Christian! If these be in you—that is sufficient. But be sure that you do not lack; for he that lacketh is blind, and forgets that he was purged from his old sins.

October 24

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding (Prov. 9:10).

No one really lives until he lives in Christ and Christ in him. Then the *eyes of the understanding are opened* and the possibilities of life spread out before one like a great panorama. Excitement and desire permeate the soul; with faith and courage the problems of life are grappled.

October 25

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field (Deut. 28:3).

The "blesseds" of the Bible are numerous and glorious. Have you ever looked them up? *Blessed shall be "thy basket and thy store."* God made numerous promises to His people Israel and all were fulfilled. God is rich in His mercy, plenteous in His grace, and abundant in His bestowals.

October 26

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse (Prov. 28:27).

The way to get blessed is to bless someone else. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." God's poor are everywhere; there is no excuse for our impotency in this direction. If we will look after these, He will look after us. How few think of these things!

October 27

Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times (Ps. 106:3).

Augustine says, "I doubt not that there is some difference; viz., that he is said to keep judgment who judgeth rightly, but he to do righteousness who acts righteously." *To do righteously all the time* is possible only with the help of the Lord. A clean heart backed

up by the Holy Spirit makes a triumphant life possible under all circumstances.

October 28

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent (Prov. 28:20).

Faithfulness has its constant reward. Faithfulness is especially pleasing to God, and God does not forget to bless the faithful. But note the contrast; how many there are who have striven to get rich, have wrecked themselves and others! A timely warning to us.

October 29

Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee (Ps. 128:1-2).

This is a magnificent promise to those who are determined to serve the Lord. Both spiritual and temporal prosperity are offered. Saintliness is decidedly advantageous, both in this world and in the world to come. God is able to verify His word.

October 30

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile (I Pet. 3:10).

Perfect love in the heart is a cure for an unmanageable tongue. *Loving life and seeing good days* is certainly a liberal reward for a

guarded tongue. What serious injury a "loose" tongue can work! There is no weapon so dangerous as the tongue, unless controlled by the Holy Spirit.

October 31

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage (Ps. 16:6).

Despite every untoward circumstance, every severe and nauseating distress; my lot may be hard, yet it would be infinitely worse without Christ to lean upon. God marks out my lines, and I shall not go beyond them. My heritage is beyond compare, because God hath ordered it.

November 1

And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house (Deut. 26:11).

The good things come from God, whether there is pain or pleasure. To always have the spirit of rejoicing is beautiful. God never permits affliction to come to His people without the design of improving their spiritual condition. Remember that.

November 2

For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her (Zech. 2:5).

This refers to Jerusalem. My defense shall be her safety. So God is a *wall of fire* about

His people. The enemy cannot touch one of God's little ones. The Word says, "Delivered out of the hand of our enemies." Let us praise Him for His wonderful protection!

November 3

The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you (Deut. 1:30).

The same God goes before His children now. What security! How blessed to know that we have Someone infinitely strong to fight our battles! No need of alarm, no need to be afraid, no need to be discouraged. *Our God goes before.*

November 4

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1).

"He," no matter who he may be, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, patrician or plebian, young or old; God is no respecter of persons. "Secret place"—*snug up* to the great heart of Christ, a place of refuge from the storms of life. The *shadow* of the Almighty is protection enough.

November 5

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him (Ps. 91:15).

There is so much of comfort and consolation here that words fail to express the un-

limited significance of this remarkable promise. God's people are surely highly favored. Just *call upon God* and He will do the rest. Do not depend upon your friends or family, when in trouble; depend upon God. He will deliver you.

November 6

And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by (Exod. 33:22).

Moses desired to see God's glory, and this is what God said to Moses. The glory of God is too penetrating for any common man to see and live. But what the physical eyes cannot see, the soul can feel. God's glory fills the soul, refreshing, enlarging, subduing, and making the soul rich. Dr. Bresee used to repeat, "Get the glory down."

November 7

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him (I John 4:16).

God made the soul of man to be filled by himself. When the soul is full of sin, the purpose of God is thwarted. When God reigns, love predominates. *Love* is the fulfilling of the law, and *love* is the controlling element of Christianity.

November 8

The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory (Ps. 64:10).

That heart is exultant and happy that nestles up close to our Lord. That which differentiates the Christian religion from every other religion is its joyful aspect. There is nothing that makes a person so glad as a heart filled with the love of Christ. One has a *right* to be glad and to *shout*.

November 9

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God (Isa. 61:10a).

A morose, dejected, long-faced, sallow-complexion experience is not consistent with a true Christian. Note that word *greatly*. Others say we are excited, but they are mistaken. When the heart is overflowing with praises and joy, how can one express the exuberance except by greatly rejoicing? Have *you* ever had such a spell?

November 10

He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels (Isa. 61:10b).

The soul has something to rejoice over. What delightful figures here! *Garments of*

salvation . . . robe of righteousness; both adorned and protected. God gives His best to those who ask Him. The true Church is the bride of Christ, adorned with the jewels and garments of holiness. Nothing else becomes her.

November 11

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Pet. 1:8).

A faith that is imperturbable, "that shines more bright, more clear when tempests rage without," furnishes a condition of heart and soul that rejoices with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Whenever the joy is *unspeakable*, you can probably express it by *crying, laughing, or keeping still.*

November 12

The redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away (Isa. 51:11).

Practically a repetition of Isa. 35:10. God's people are to triumph gloriously. Their enemies are to be completely overthrown. "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run." His rule shall be universal

and eternal. *Eternal joy, eternal happiness; do not miss it.*

November 13

The joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10).

Your joy is not to come from fleshly appetites. Your joy must be from a higher source. "*Religious joy, properly tempered with continual dependence on the help of God, meekness of mind, and self-diffidence, is a powerful means of strengthening the soul.*" The joy of the Lord is healthful, invigorating; in such a frame of mind, no man ever fell.

November 14

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right (Eph. 6:1).

Children who have the counsel and help of godly parents should recognize their inestimable advantage. The obedient child is a source of constant satisfaction to such parents. How delightful is a home where such conditions rule!

November 15

Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth (Eph. 6:2-3).

This is a timely exhortation and should be laid to heart by each one. God hath spoken it and experience shows its certainty. This is

in connection with verse 1. Let it be remembered that this natural law of obedience is sanctioned by the divine law. Christian parents will not be unreasonable.

November 16

Every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer (Isa. 56:6-7).

God is very jealous for His holy day. He especially regards those who refuse to desecrate it for any reason whatsoever. To disregard His day, and make it a day of recreation, revelry, and riotous conduct, is to bring a curse on the individual thus guilty. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

November 17

Hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God (Ezek. 20:20).

The Sabbath day is set apart for rest and worship. Both are absolutely essential to physical and spiritual health. The human machine wears out if it runs all the time. The soul needs refreshing as well as the body. The nation that ruthlessly desecrates the Sabbath will soon disintegrate and decay.

November 18

Keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged (Deut. 6:2).

Long life is promised to those who assiduously keep the commandments of God. It is to be observed that piety is advantageous to length of life. Piety saves one from the excesses and dissipations of life that affect the physical and often destroy it. *Godliness is profitable.*

November 19

Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season (Job 5:26).

A glorious picture of a happy, cheerful, uncomplaining old person. Ready for two worlds; anticipating an angel chariot to come along almost any time and carry them to the City of Gold. Nothing more beautiful than a righteous old person.

November 20

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures (Job 36:11).

Godliness is profitable. It may not always mean temporal prosperity, for that might be dangerous. But it does mean spiritual prosperity, and that means, in whatsoever state

we are, therewith to be content. Godliness is not only *profitable*, but godliness is *pleasure*.

November 21

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land (Isa. 1:19).

Willing—not stubborn resistance, not doing it because we have to, but willing, cheerful, hopeful, happy to have the opportunity. A real pleasure to keep God's commandments. Then the good of the land is promised. "To obey is better than sacrifice." Our constant obedience guarantees God's protection and help.

November 22

He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever (I John 2:17).

The rich heritage of every child of God is *eternal life*. God not only rewards faithfulness here, but He throws heaven in for good measure. How wonderful are the prospects of every one who *abides* in Christ! "An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

November 23

Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you (Jer. 7:23).

God never failed His ancient people when they were obedient. Neither does He fail one

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of His children now if obedient. The same God yesterday, today, and forever. All that He promised them He promises us. Glory!

November 24

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed (Ps. 37:3).

Note the admonition to *do good*. It is one thing to trust in the Lord and another to be engaged in Christian acts of mercy and help. Some spend more time on themselves than on others. No act of *selfishness* can exist with the true Christian spirit.

November 25

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread (Ps. 37:25).

This was David's observation in his day and was undoubtedly true. It might not be literally true in this day of limited faith, selfishness, and increased poverty. Never are the righteous forsaken, and seldom now do their seed beg bread. If they do, there is some cause: idleness, dissipation, or sin in some form. However, David's observation is generally true.

November 26

We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe (I Tim. 4:10).

Our trust is not misplaced. Idols of wood, stone, or metal cannot respond to the cry of

humanity; but the *living God* is in sympathy with His children. He hears their cry and gives them deliverance. We do not worship a dead Christ, but a living Christ.

November 27

Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he (Prov. 16:20).

The world in general is looking for happiness. Almost everything is tried, and all is failure. But those who try the Lord find genuine happiness that lasts. Not fleshly or worldly or transient happiness, offered by the pleasures of the world, but lasting, abiding happiness put into the soul by the Lord himself.

November 28

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble (Jas. 4:6).

God never gives grace to those who fail to use it. He does not waste grace on anyone; but if we use what He gives, He is always ready to give more. If we allow our grace to puff us up, we deceive ourselves. Pride never wins grace, but humility does.

November 29

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).

To gain heaven, holiness is absolutely essential. God hath spoken; His word is unchangeable. Heaven is a holy place, and those

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who go there to dwell forever must be holy. The danger is in disbelieving the word of God or neglecting it altogether. Reader, beware!

November 30

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled (Heb. 12:15).

“Root of bitterness.” There are many hearts that seem to have these symptoms. They are very dangerous; they not only trouble the one afflicted, but they trouble others because they are the source of jealousy, hatred, quarreling, and the like. The blood of Jesus is a *sure cure* for roots of bitterness.

December 1

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God (II Cor. 4:15).

“Abundant grace.” Some persons seem to get along on a *wee bit* of grace. Spiritually speaking, they are in the poorhouse. Why live at such a poor, dying rate when there is *abundant grace* for everyone? God is not stingy; He is fabulously liberal to all who will ask. “Ask . . . that your joy may be full.”

December 2

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Ps. 119:105).

God's Word is a Lamp to our feet, showing us the path of safety. The sun shines by day and lights our way, but day or night the Bible lights our way to keep us from stumbling and falling. Safe in darkness and safe in light, thus safe all the time. How wonderful is His Word!

December 3

Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David (Isa. 55:2-3).

How abundant and satisfying are the promises of God! We need not lack any good thing. Note these words, "good," "delight," "fatness," "live," "everlasting," "sure mercies."

December 4

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Ps. 119:11).

The Bible in the heart is better than a Bible under the arm. If we have committed the Word to memory, it will be a source of comfort to us in trouble. We can call up a promise and defend ourselves against the attack of the devil.

December 5

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein (Rev. 1:3).

The acceptance of the Word, the believing it with simple, childlike faith, the obeying its precepts and appropriating its promises, without doubt or speculation, will invigorate the soul until it shall flourish, like a watered garden.

December 6

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me (Acts 27:25).

"I believe God." This was a Pauline declaration in the face of desperate circumstances. Fairly flying in the teeth of the wind. But this is true faith. I believe God, no matter if the storm is on. God has spoken through His Word; I believe Him.

December 7

What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24).

The motive of prayer must be guarded, that we ask according to His will. Our desires must not have any selfishness in them; there must be no hindering cause to faith. Then it is comparatively easy to believe as we pray. To know how to pray is the most important thing of all.

December 8

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Heb. 11:6).

In order to *walk with God* a man must have faith toward God. There can be no mutual relationship if faith is marred by the slightest unbelief. The largest blessings can be gained only by the simplest and purest faith. To *diligently seek* means, apart from all idolatries, atheism, and wickedness. God can be found when thus sought.

December 9

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Heb. 6:10).

Prompted by the irresistible love of God, every Christian delights to minister. Relieving the suffering, comforting the afflicted, praying with the dying bring peace and consolation to the heart. In ministering to others, we minister to Christ (Matt. 25:40).

December 10

Owe no many any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law (Rom. 13:8).

This does not forbid the credit system, but it does forbid our neglecting to pay a just

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debt. If possible, it is far better to keep out of debt, although this is practically impossible in the business world. The *love debt*, says *Whedon*, is a debt which though forever paid is forever due. It is a vessel which even though forever full forever needs filling.

December 11

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments (Ps. 133:1-2).

How unpleasant and disgusting it is for brethren to be fussing! The cause of God is often hindered and Christianity made a laughingstock. Resolve never to be a party to such disgraceful actions, but live in the 133rd psalm.

December 12

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10).

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." The love of God in the heart prevents hatred to a neighbor and is a sure sign of affection between brothers and sisters in Christ. When enmity exists, the love of Christ has departed.

December 13

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me (John 17:21).

A loving and brotherly relation between the children of God convinces the world of the reality of religion. Christ's prayer would indicate a union, a *love tie* like heaven. How unlike holiness is unholiness, and how unlike Christ is division! Father, spare Thy children from such disgrace!

December 14

We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope (Rom. 5:3-4).

John saw those who came up through great tribulation, who had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They were a highly favored company. The grace of patience and of experience is the result of tribulation. God sees to it that we are rewarded here, and hereafter.

December 15

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried (Dan. 12:10).

Note the order: *purified*, made white by the blood of Jesus, and then *tried*. God's clean, faithful children have their severe tests, that they may have spiritual muscle for the next

conflict. Strength comes by the exercise of muscle. So in spiritual things.

December 16

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matt. 5:44-45).

Only the perfect love of God filling the heart will make it possible for you to do this. But it can be done. This is like-mindedness to Christ.

December 17

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord (Rom. 12:19).

We sometimes feel like taking the bit in our teeth, and straightening matters out; when we do so, it is always a bad job. But if we can just trust the Lord and look to Him, our triumph is sure to be complete. God knows how to defend His children.

December 18

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head (Rom. 12:20).

When this recipe is faithfully carried out, it always discomfits or conquers your enemy,

and then you feel so much better. You have not condescended to his level, but maintained the real spirit of Christ. There is plenty of opportunity for this sort of practice. Try it.

December 19

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king (Dan. 3:17).

These three Hebrew children faced an awful death, but with unflinching, unfaltering faith in God. There was not the slightest compromise in their make-up. The same quality of courage and faith in God is worthy of every Christian today. Our God is the same; He *can* and *will* deliver.

December 20

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling (Ps. 116:8).

A threefold deliverance; from *death*, from *tears*, from *falling*. This insures not only safety, but the largest satisfaction and the greatest triumph. A wonderful deliverance!

December 21

He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me (Ps. 18:19).

Faithfulness to God in all walks of life will insure God's favor when we desire it most.

God delights in holiness; a holy heart gains the attention of God. A holy heart has visions of large things. A holy heart sees with the eye of an enlarged faith.

December 22

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (II Cor. 5:1).

We know. A knowledge fastened upon the soul by the eye of faith and the witness of the Spirit. As indubitable to the soul as any lump of matter is to the eye. How wondrously comforting! When life's vicissitudes are over, to enjoy our heavenly mansion! In some cases from a hovel or a humble cottage to a house of God! What a transition!

December 23

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about (Ps. 32:10).

"The way of transgressors is hard." Wickedness carries its own awful compensations. The pleasures of wickedness are nothing as compared with their sorrows. God shields His little ones and compasses them about with deliverance. It pays from every angle to be a Christian.

December 24

Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any (Isa. 44:8).

When God is for us, who can be against us? Let us exalt the Lord in His majesty and power. His strength is exercised in behalf of His children. When He undertakes, there is no failure. What a sublime declaration is the above passage from God's Word!

December 25

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me (John 14:1).

Deeper than the surging billows of the sea lies the peace of God in the soul. The waves may dash high, but there is a calm and undisturbed repose. There may be trouble, and no doubt there will be, but the heart rests in Jesus. *Oh, sweet rest!*

December 26

For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people (I Sam. 12:22).

God's ancient people were very precious to Him. His people today are just as precious, and God will not forsake them. In all the temptations and vicissitudes of life God can be depended upon to succor and defend His

chosen people. How comforting this is! Rest assured that the enemy cannot get the mastery.

December 27

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider what great things he hath done for you (I Sam. 12:24).

Samuel knew that if God's people remained true they would constantly have the protection of God. As an inspiration to faithfulness, Samuel asked them to remember what great things God had done for them. We too are to consider God's prodigality in behalf of His children.

December 28

Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? (Luke 12:24)

The inference is that if God cares for the birds, and feeds them, He is infinitely more interested in sustaining one of His little children. We need not be alarmed or disturbed by untoward circumstances; our God *can* and *will* care for us.

December 29

Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Heb. 13:5).

Do not worry over your condition or circumstances; that will only add to your sorrow.

God knows and He understands. Rest in Him without petulance or lack of faith. He will see you through in His own mysterious way.

December 30

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9).

Glory, majesty, and power belong to our God; He is the *only true God*, and all that He promised to do for Israel, He will do for us. His interceding in our behalf depends upon our *faithfulness*. We are the constant beneficiaries of God's unlimited power if we keep His commandments.

December 31

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (II Tim. 4:8).

Paul's last glad acclaim. A crown so holy that it is made out of *righteousness*. The heavenly reward for our perseverance in the way of truth and salvation. *Heaven thrown in for good measure*. The culmination of God's generosity; gloriously won, worthily bestowed, because God does it.