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OUT OF HIS FULNESS

John 1:16

GOD offers salvation to the lost, through the death of Jesus Christ, as a free gift, and to all who are true believers in Him He offers the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is not merely a second blessing, it is a third blessing, a hundredth blessing, a thousandth blessing. There are many ways to describe this

life of fullness – it is synonymous to say, be you emptied of yourself; surrender your will to the Lord; rejoice in the One Whom you have trusted as Saviour, as Lord and Master; yield yourself to Him; give yourself to Him; give your life to Him. Any of these phrases may cover the basis of the experience in your life, providing you follow the full implication of surrender, of

yieldedness. Christ should be enthroned as Lord of all to experience the fullness. John 1:16

Then the Spirit comes in His gentle fullness to bring His fruit, *“Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control”* (Galatians 5:22). Then He brings that which the world seeks and never finds; quiet contentment in the midst of any circumstances, rich joy even in the midst of sorrow, true fellowship with all of the Lord’s own people, lips that open in His witness, a purse that is open to His cause, a Heart that is strong to do great things for Him. In short a life that is hid with Christ in GOD and Manifests Christ wherever it may please GOD to direct the believer’s steps.

* * *

OUR STRONG POINT

ABRAHAM’S strong point was his faith. Yet that was the very point in which he failed. While sojourning in Gerar he denied his wife Genesis 20:1. Moses, the meekest man, spake unadvisedly with his lips; and he was not permitted to enter the promised land. Solomon was

the wisest man. *“Nevertheless, even him did outlandish women cause to sin.”* Nehemiah 13:26. Therefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There are special reasons why our strong point should be jealously guarded. It is in our “strong point” that we are prone to fancy ourselves secure; and such fancied security is simply the signal to the enemy that his time has come. A weak point well guarded is stronger than a strong point with no sentinel.

If you see some men going to an extreme, do not let that provoke you to rush to the opposite extreme. The truth can never be helped by our wresting it in one direction, simply because others are wresting it in the contrary direction. Such a course may seem to be good policy; but it proceeds upon a bad principle. We have only to tread the path of truth as revealed in the Scriptures, and leave the rest with GOD.

* * *

**ALWAYS MAKE TIME –
TAKE TIME**
(Found in the flyleaf of a very
old Bible)

TAKE TIME to breathe a
morning prayer.
Ask GOD to keep you from evil
and use you for His Glory during
the day.

MAKE TIME to read from GOD's
Word each day.

TAKE TIME to be pleasant. A
bright smile or a pleasant word
falls like sunbeam upon the
hearts
of those around you.

MAKE TIME to be polite. A
gentle "Thank you,"
is no compromise of dignity.
True politeness is to say the
nicest things
in the kindest way.

TAKE TIME to be thoughtful
towards the aged.
Respect them and give regard
to their grey head of experience
even if they grow on the crown
of a beggar.
One day you too will be senior
and grey.

MAKE TIME to look up. We
usually get out of life
what we put into it and He, our
GOD Who watches the sparrow
will not forget.

Just **MAKE TIME – TAKE TIME!**

- Anon

* * *

**ANOTHER
APPOINTMENT**

Two or three years ago back
in England (he shall be nameless
because he is well known) a
friend of mine was talking one
Saturday morning to his wife at
the breakfast table. They were
discussing a meeting she had
promised to address that
evening in her official capacity.
It was a meeting of young
people and she had been
invited to talk to them about
Christ and about salvation,
which, if you knew the
circumstances, was a great
opportunity. Suddenly she
turned to her husband and said
to him, "I am not well." He
moved to her and took her in
His arms and within moments
she had gone to be with Christ –
in his arms. But before she died

she said, "Those young people tonight – tell them to come now." After the necessary preparations which were very many at that time, he, alone, made his way to that meeting and he went to the rear of the auditorium and said to the organizers, "I am sorry but it has been found that my wife had another appointment today and I have come in her place. Would I be acceptable to these young people?" Well "yes," they said, because he too was well known by name. He went, apologizing for his presence instead of the presence of his wife to that great gathering of young people and he preached Christ to them. As he came to the end of this message he said to them, "My wife, I am sure would have been very sorry not to have been here tonight. She found this morning that she had another appointment – with Christ, her Lord and Saviour and she has gone to be with Him. But before she went she asked me to give you this message. She said, 'Tell them to come now'." He did not have an opportunity to say another word, no chance to conclude the message, no chance to give

out a concluding hymn because they began to come from every part of that building and the Lord did a mighty work of salvation among them that night. "Tell them to come now." I am telling you, my friend, to come now, to touch the hem of His garment, this Christ, this lovely exalted, almighty Christ, this One Who bled and died for your salvation.

- Dr. ERIC GURR

The HERALD OF HOPE, December, 1978

-- January, 1979

* * *

CALEB – THE OVERCOMER

Joshua 14:6-15

I'm 85! I'm as strong as I was at 40 probably a large group of young men around.

Would they settle for easy assignments when it came to occupying the promised land? None asked for this hill country! Why?? Tough challenge to ease!

The "Hill country" was full of "walled cities" and giants (15:13) of CHINA.

Who wants that? This Senior man did!

A well-known brother E. Stanley Jones used 50 years of his life in INDIA-- In testimony.

At 83 he wrote, "There are wounds -- even scars upon my faith -- (I have often failed). BUT UNDERNEATH THOSE SCARS THERE ARE NO DOUBTS!

Christ still has me and I have Christ (I am the Lord's!) with all of my consent, all my heart!

I'm 83 and I'm more excited today about being a Christian than I was at 20 years old when I was born again into Christ!"

Did you hear that? We need to be fully into following in His Way -- the Word.

It is not -- with GOD -- about running "Stumble free" -- mistake-free -- that matters. It's the finishing well -- be fully persuaded -- OVERCOMING.

The promises are great! Which is greater? The Promises!

Romans 4:21 "*and being fully persuaded*" -- promise perform.

Romans 8:38 "*I am persuaded -- neither death nor life.*"

2 Timothy 1:12 "*I am persuaded that He is able to keep.*"

Hebrews 11:13 "*(they not having received the promises,) but having seen them afar off and were persuaded.*"

Psalms 84:11 *The Lord GOD is a sun and shield, no good thing will He withhold.*

Maybe we have made mistakes?! Don't stay in a state of "guilt and regret." We have a Redeemer-Saviour-Lord who takes us in His gift-given new life -- "Christ-in-us" life beyond our mistakes.

FINISH STRONG! OVERCOME!

* * *

FREEDOM BY CHOICE OR RULE OR SUBCONSCIOUS

GOD has chosen to offer humanity free choice. Man may choose life or death and blessing or cursing (Deuteronomy 30:19), to obey or not to obey. Man may choose GOD's way of salvation which is to obey His command to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive the free gift of eternal life, or man may opt for eternal punishment (John 3:16).

However, when GOD saves the sinner, he then comes under the purposeful headship of Christ. GOD does not call us to make choices on how to run our lives and **His** church, but to be obedient to His commands by the power of His Spirit for His glory and our welfare (1 Corinthians 14:37, 1 John 5:2,3). When the best is offered, and GOD's ways are the best, contemplating alternate choices will only lead to stress. Less than the best brings one into the weakness of the inferior. Apart from GOD's revelation and grace, can we have the knowledge or even the desire to choose the best?

* * *

INDWELT

"Christ in you." Colossians 1:21

Not merely by the words you
say,
Not only in your deeds
confessed
But in the most unconscious
way
Is Christ expressed.

Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?

Oh, no – I felt His presence
while
You laughed just now.

For me, 'twas not the truth you
taught,
To you so dear, to me still dim,
But when you came to me you
brought
A sense of Him.
And from your eyes He beckons
me
And from your heart His love is
shed,
Till I lose sight of you, and see
The Christ instead.

- Beatrice C.

* * *

JOHN WESLEY'S RULE

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you can.

- John Wesley 1703-1791

JOHN WELSEY'S FOUR ALL'S

ALL need to be saved.
ALL can be saved.

ALL can know they are saved.
ALL can be saved to the utter
most.

- John Wesley

JOHN WESLEY'S WITNESSING EXPERIMENT

“For these two days I had made an experiment when I had been so often and earnestly pressed to do.

“Speak to no one concerning the things of GOD unless my heart was free to do it.” And what was the result?

1. That I spoke to none at all for eighty miles, no, not even to him that travelled with me, unless a few words at first as we started out.
2. That I had no cross to bear and take up, and commonly in an hour or two I fell fast asleep.
3. That I had much respect shown to me whenever I came, everyone behaving to me as a civil, good-natured gentleman.

O How pleasing is all this to flesh and blood!”

- John Wesley's Journal

* * *

LIFE, LOVE, LIGHT

The most important things in life are the hardest to articulate; precious things are the most difficult to define.

Life

“This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true GOD, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3)

Many have tried to define life. Normally it is expressed in terms of a significant material advantage or an emotional experience or state. The Bible rises much higher than this when it defines life. The Lord Jesus defined real life as knowing GOD and His Son Jesus Christ. In other words true life is a relationship with the One who is the source of **life** itself. It is not something manufactured from within us but comes from without us, above us and to us. Not a religious man-made system but a relationship with GOD. The Lord Jesus said, *“I have come that they might have life?”* Do you have life? Do you know Him?

Love

“Herein is love, not that we loved GOD, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the

propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10)

Many have tried to define love. Many touching love songs and poems have been written down through the centuries but they never rise higher than a physical or an emotional feeling or response. The Bible says that true love is undeserved. Despite the fact that we did not love GOD, He still loved us. It also states that true love is sacrificial and unselfish. GOD the Father, the One who was offended with our sins, placated His own wrath against us by providing a sinless man to take the punishment for our sins on a cross – His eternal Son! That is true love. Do you know that true love? He said, *"If a man love me, my Father will love Him, and we will come into Him and make our dwelling place with Him"*. Do you love Him?

Light

"And the city had no need of the sun and the Lamb is the light" (Revelation 21:23)

Many have tried to define light. Scientists have argued whether light is a particle or a wave or both. The Bible rises much higher when defining light than merely describing a

physical phenomenon. It says that the ultimate source of light is Christ. In heaven there will be no sun or moon but the light source will be Christ. Millions of people down through the centuries have come to understand that they are wandering away from GOD in darkness and have come to the "Light of the world" for salvation. He said, *"I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"* (John 8:12). Do you know that true light? Or, sadly, will it be that you will choose darkness and land in that place the Bible calls the "blackness of darkness". The choice is yours. Confess your sins and choose Christ; choose life, love and light.

* * *

MEDIATOR

A Middle man, one who can stand between two and have intercourse with both. Such was Moses: he conveyed to the people the words of Jehovah, and carried to Jehovah the replies of the people. Again and again he pleaded their cause.

The very fact of a mediator acting between two, is used by the apostle to show that GOD's acting with Abraham was on a different principle. "A mediator is not of one, but GOD is one," and He made to Abraham personally an unconditional promise. Galatians 3:19-20 The Lord Jesus is the Mediator – the only mediator – "*between GOD and men*" universally. It is through Him that GOD has been enabled to approach men in a Man with forgiveness of sins, and consequently to Him any poor sinner can go, and will in no wise be cast out. He is the Mediator of the new covenant that will be made with Israel in the future: they will be blessed only through Him, as the saints of GOD are now blessed *through* Him and *in* Him. 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrew 8:6; 9:15; 12:24.

* * *

MORE THAN A FRIEND

Many years ago in one of the southern states of the U.S.A. a man was seen decking a soldier's grave with flowers. A stranger observing asked with a tone of sympathy if it was his son buried there.

"No," was the reply.

"A brother?"

"No."

"Some other relation?"

"No."

"Whose memory then, may I venture to ask, do you so sacredly and tenderly cherish?"

Pausing a moment from emotion, he replied, "When the war broke out, I was drafted for the army, and as I was unable to procure a substitute, I prepared to go. Just as I was leaving home to report for duty, a young man whom I knew came to me and said: 'You have a large family, whom your wife cannot support when you are gone. I am a single man, and have no one in dependence upon me, I will go for you.'

He went. In the battle the young man was severely wounded, died, and was buried here. Ever since his death, I have wished to visit this place, and having saved sufficient funds, I arrived yesterday, and today have found his grace."

This touching account concluded and he placed some flowers upon the grave. Taking then a board, he inserted it at the foot of the grave. On it were these simple words,

“HE DIED FOR ME”

I know your heart will be glad also when you think of that noble gentleman’s generous-sacrificing friend.

Does it also overflow with gratitude when you think of the Great One Who died for **YOU**? Is that work known, forgotten or misunderstood that not one **loving, grateful** though is given Him the Saviour Jesus Christ. As that generous soldier died in substitution his friend, so truly did Jesus die for you. Yes and far more so for that soldier might have returned from the war safely, but **Jesus knew** He went forth to a certain death and to infinite judgment for sin. And how have you treated Him?

GOD knew you did not however believe nor love Him, nor even care for your own soul. GOD saw that you would be lost, so GOD has made reconciliation possible for all. Have you shed any tears, experienced a simple, loving thought sacred to the memory of Him, Son of GOD and Saviour of all who believe and receive Him.

Perhaps you think that because He is Son of GOD He would feel no pain or grief as

we do. Listen for He said, “*My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.*” “*If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.*” He is fully GOD and holy manhood in One.

FOR THREE LONG HOURS He suffered in agony on the cross while a mocking crowd stood gazing upon Him. Then during those last three hours of darkness, hidden from the eyes of men, and shut out from GOD. He bore the storm of divine judgment for sin for all who would put their trust in Him. The mighty wave and billows of GOD’s wrath flowed over His holy soul, till at the close He could say, “*It is finished;*” and gave up His life offering to GOD. **ALL this – for us, for you!**

The risen and glorified Saviour is now in heaven and His Word and voice speaks to all saying, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.*” Revelation 3:20

*Behold the Saviour at the door!
He gently Knocks – has knocked
before;
Has waited long – is waiting still;*

*You treated no other friend so ill.
O lovely attitude! He stands
With open heart and
outstretched hands;
O matchless kindness! And He
shows
His matchless kindness to His
foes.
Admit Him, for the human
breast
Ne'er entertained so kind a
guest;
No mortal tongue their joys can
tell
With whom He condescends to
dwell.*

*Admit Him, ere His anger burn,
Lest He depart and ne'er return;
Admit, or the hour's at hand
When at His door denied you'll
stand.*

* * *

NO EXCUSE

To the work, then you servants
of Jesus the Lord,
No strife, no excuse, to not
carry the load;
As others have done – are you
able to stand?
As pioneers true in this
opportune land.
Let others feel free to travel
around

Where friendships, good times
widely abound;
Your Lord is your Master and
faithful Guide,
He'll lead you to fields where
the seed will abide.

* * *

PERPETUITY OF THE BIBLE

It has often been reviled;
but it has never been refuted.
Its foundations have been
examined by the most
searching eyes. In Hume, and
Gibbon, and Voltaire, and La
Place, not to mention a
multitude of vulgar assailants,
the Bible has had to sustain the
assaults of the greatest talent,
the sharpest wit, and the
acutest intellects. To make it
appear a cunningly devised
fable, philosophers have sought
arguments amid the mysteries
of science, and travelers amid
the hoar remains of antiquity;
for that purpose, geologists
have ransacked the bowels of
the earth, and astronomers the
starts of heaven; and yet after
having sustained the most
cunningly-devised and ably-
executed assaults of eighteen
hundred years, it still exists – a

glorious fulfillment of the words of its Founder, -- *“On this rock have I built my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

- Dr. Guthrie

* * *

THE FAITH THAT JUSTIFIES

We live by faith. It is not only the very foundation of all that is important in this age and dispensation of faith, it is the base from which a true, real believer lives. The day is past when materialism can successfully challenge this. Those scientists who are not believers, but simply skilled artisans of the intellect or chief manipulators of the mind, may attempt to discard faith; but all these in the end will turn out to be nothing more than surveyors of an era of extinction.

The faith that justifies the soul is still surviving for thousands. It is still the beginning, end and outcome of the message preached today. *“By grace and ye saved **through faith.**”* Ephesians 2:8

*“Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than **GODly edification which is in faith.** Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and **from sincere faith,** from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk.”* 1 Timothy 1:4-6

Walk By Faith

[While still assaulted by every fiery dart of the evil one, we are to walk in Christ. But how? Just as we have received Him. And how did we receive Christ? We received Him **by faith. We received Him as the gift of GOD.** That is the way we are to walk.] ~C.G. Trumbull

The faith that justifies the soul is the faith that now believes on the Son of GOD, the Lamb of GOD, Who takes away the sin of the world. This is called “saving faith.” It is also “keeping faith” for we live by faith. Romans 1:17

- CBR (April 2016)

* * *

THE LOVE OF GOD

“For GOD SO loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”

(John 3:16). This love originated in the heart of GOD not because of what we are, but in spite of what we are! There is no worthiness in us to merit GOD’s love. GOD describes mankind as unrighteous, stating *the solemn fact that all have “gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* He terms us as *“sinners,” “unGODly”* and having *“come short of the glory of GOD”* (Romans 3:10, 12,23; 5:6,8). Not only this, He tells us that our best efforts are to Him nothing but *“filthy rags”* (Isaiah 64:6)! Yet He *“SO loved”* us!

* * *

THE STORY OF A FRIEND

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class who was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he

was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, “Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.” I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, “Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives.”

He looked at me and said, “Hey thanks!” There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that shows real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He

said he had gone to private school before now. I would never have hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with a huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!"

He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiles. "Thanks" he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began.

"Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or worse. GOD puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for GOD in others.

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote:

- ❖ *Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.*
- ❖ *To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.*
- ❖ *Anger is only one letter short of danger.*

* * *

TRUTHS AND COUNTER TRUTHS

TO every truth GOD has revealed in His Word, there is a counter truth. If you wish to be kept from being a heretic, then do not lean so much on one side of the truth as to ignore the other. If you have found any single truth to be precious to your soul, then be sure you look for its counter truth, and give it your attention also, otherwise by occupying yourself wholly with one side of truth to the neglect of the other, you will be in danger of pushing it into the place of heresy. For it is well to remember, that heresy is spoken of in Scripture, not as error, but truth pushed out of its place to the disparagement or ignoring of other truths

which have been given by GOD to balance it. Heresy is selected truth; truth taken out of its connection, and forced into undue importance, hence an "heretic" (Titus 3:10) is one who chooses, who makes selection according to his own tastes, and who forms a party round that which he thus chooses.

If a believer wants to go on rightly, holding a straight course in the Word of GOD, he must always remember that GOD's truth is two-sided, and that every truth has its counter truth. For in us there is the ever-recurring tendency to set up one side of truth against another, to hold one side so as to disparage or neutralize the other. In order to be safe, the two extremes must be held together. Statements in GOD's Word may be divers, but never diverse truths will be found to be counter, but never contrary.

- The late William Lincoln

* * *

WILLIAM T. FUNSTON **1916 – 1992**

Over the door in his study:

*"As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord"*

On a wall in his study:

*"Whatsoever things are
true honestjust
pure lovely..... of good
report THINK ON THESE
THINGS.*

- It may be true but is it pure?
- It may be honest but is it lovely?
- It may be just but is it of good report?

Found in his Bible:

- "GOD will not look you over for medals, degrees or diplomas, but for wounds."

– A lovely spirited man

* * *

WORDS

*Keep a watch on your words,
brethren,
For words are wonderful things,
They are sweet like the bee's
fresh honey,
Like the bees, they have
terrible stings:
They can bless like the warm,
glad sunshine
And brighten a lonely life,
They can cut in the strife of
anger,
Like a cruel two-edged knife,*

*Keep them back if they are cold
and cruel,
Under bar, and lock and
seal,
For the wounds they make, my
brethren,
Are always slow to heal.
May peace guard your lips for
ever,
From the time of your early
growth,
May the words that you daily
utter
Be only the words of Truth.*

- Author unknown

* * *

AN AFRICAN DISCIPLE

WHEN Robert Moffat and his companions were travelling in Africa, they came near to a native village on the banks of the river Orange. They had travelled far and were suffering from thirst, hunger and weariness. They were afraid of the lions which were seen in that area, so they wished to remain in the village overnight. But the natives were rough and unkind and would not allow them to come in and even insisted that they camp some distance off.

They asked for water to drink, but that was denied them. So they had no prospect of anything better than to spend the night hungry and thirsty, though in sight of the village and of the river. Besides this, they were suspicious of the villagers themselves as they were most unfriendly.

But when it began to grow dark, a native woman came to them with a bundle of wood on her head and a bottle of milk in her hand. Without speaking she gave them the milk, laid down the wood, and went back to the village. A second time she came with a pot on her head – a leg of mutton in one hand and water in the other. Sitting down without saying a word, she prepared the fire, and put on the meat to cook. Again and again they asked who she was, but she remained silent until the work was done. Then again they entreated her to give a reason for such kindness to strangers.

Tears rolled down her dark cheeks as she replied, "I love Him whose servant you are, and feel it is my duty to give you a cup of cold water in His Name. My heart is full. I cannot speak

my joy to see you in this out-of-the-world place.”

That poor woman was a solitary light burning in that dark corner of the world. Sometime before she had been in the school of a missionary where she had learned to love the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. She now had a copy of the Dutch Testament given her by her teacher.

When they asked her how she kept the light of GOD in her soul, all alone without any Christian help or fellowship, she drew the much-prized Book from her breast saying, “There is the oil which makes my lamp burn! This is the fountain from which I drink!”

Messages of Love

* * *

THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD WHEREIN YE STAND

***“This is the true grace of GOD
wherein ye stand.”***

1 Peter 5:12

GOD is made known to us as the “*GOD of all Grace,*” and the position in which we are set is that of “tasting that He is *gracious.*” How hard it is for us

to believe this, that the Lord is *gracious*. The natural feeling of our hearts is, “I know that Thou art an austere man;” there is the want in all of us naturally of the understanding of the *Grace of GOD*.

There is sometimes the thought that grace implies GOD’s *passing over sin*; but no, grace supposes sin to be so horribly bad a thing that GOD cannot tolerate. Were it in the power of man, after being unrighteous and evil, to patch up his ways, and men himself so as to stand before GOD, there would be no need of *grace*. The very fact of the Lord’s being gracious shows sin to be so evil a thing that, man being a sinner, his state is utterly ruined and hopeless, and nothing but *free grace* will do for him – can meet his need.

We must learn what GOD is to us, not by our own thoughts, but by what He has revealed Himself to be, and that is, “*The GOD of all Grace.*” The moment I understand that I am a sinful man, and yet that it was because the Lord knew the full extent of my sin, and what its hatefulness was, that he came to me, I understand what grace

is. Faith makes me see that GOD is greater than my sin, and not that my sin is greater than GOD. The Lord that I have known as laying down His life for me is the same Lord I have to do with every day of my life, and all His dealings with me are on the same principles of *grace*. The great secret of growth is the looking up to the Lord as gracious. How precious, how strengthening it is to know that Jesus is at this moment feeling and exercising the same love towards me as when He died on the cross for me.

This is a truth that should be used by us in the most common everyday circumstances of life. Suppose, for instance, I find an evil temper in myself, which I feel it difficult to overcome. Let me bring it to Jesus as my Friend; virtue goes out of Him for my need. *Faith* should be ever thus in exercise against temptations, and not simply my own effort; my own effort against it will never be sufficient. The source of real strength is in the sense of the Lord's being *gracious*. The natural man in us always disbelieves Christ as the only source of strength and of every

blessing. Suppose my soul is out of communion, the natural hearts says, "I must correct the cause of this before I can come to Christ," but *He is gracious*; and knowing this, the way is to return to Him at once, *just as we are*, and then humble ourselves deeply before Him. It is only in *Him* and from *Him* that we shall find that which will restore our souls. Humbleness in His presence is the only real humbleness. If we own ourselves in His presence to be *just what we are*, we shall find that He will show us nothing but *grace*.

It is Jesus Who gives abiding rest to our souls, and not what our thoughts about ourselves may be. Faith never things about that which is in ourselves as its ground of rest; it receives, loves and apprehends what GOD has revealed, and what are GOD's thoughts about Jesus, in whom is *His rest*. As knowing Jesus to be precious to our souls, our eyes and our hearts being occupied with Him, they will be effectually prevented from being taken up with the vanity and sin around; and this too will be our strength against the sin and corruption of our

own hearts. Whatever I see in myself, that is not in Him, is sin; but then it is not thinking of my own sins, and my own vileness, and being occupied with them, that will humble me, but thinking of the Lord Jesus, dwelling upon the excellency in Him. It is well to be done with ourselves and to be taken up with Jesus. We are entitled to forget ourselves, we are entitled to forget our sins, we are entitled to forget all but Jesus.

There is nothing so hard for our hearts as to abide in the sense of *grace*, to continue practically conscious that we are not under law but under *grace*; it is by *grace* that the heart is “established,” but then there is nothing more difficult for us really to comprehend that the fullness of grace, that “*Grace of GOD wherein we stand,*” and to walk in the power and consciousness of it. It is only in the presence of GOD that we can know it, and *there* it is our privilege to be. The moment we *get* away from the presence of GOD, there will always be certain workings of *our own* thoughts within us, and our own thoughts can never

reach up to the thoughts of *GOD* about us, to the “*Grace of GOD.*”

Anything that I had the smallest possible right to expect could not be pure, free grace – could not be the “*Grace of GOD.*” It is alone when in communion with Him that we are able to measure everything according to *His grace*. It is possible, when we are abiding in the sense of GOD’s presence, for anything, be what it may – even the state of the Church – to shake us, for we count on GOD, and then all things become a sphere and scene for the operation of His grace.

The having very simple thoughts of *grace* is the true source of our strength as Christians; and the abiding in the sense of *grace*, in the presence of GOD, is the secret of all holiness, peace, and quietness of spirit.

The “*Grace of GOD*” is so unlimited, so full, so perfect, that if we get for a moment out of the presence of GOD, we cannot have the true consciousness of it. We have no strength to apprehend it; and if we attempt to know it out of His presence, we shall only turn

it to licentiousness. If we look at the simple fact of what grace is, it has no limits, no bounds. Be we what we may (and we cannot be worse than we are), in spite of all that, what GOD is towards us is LOVE. Neither our joy nor our peace is dependent on what we are to GOD, but on what *He is to us*, and this is *grace*.

Grace supposes all the sin and evil that is in us, and is the blessed revelation that, through Jesus, all this sin and evil has been put away. A single sin is more horrible to GOD than a thousand sins – nay, than all the sins in the world are to us; and yet, with the fullest consciousness of what we are, all that GOD is pleased to be towards us is LOVE.

In Romans 7, the state described is that of a person quickened, but whose whole set of reasonings centre in *himself* ... he stops short of *grace*, of the simple fact that, whatever be his state, let him be as bad as he may, GOD IS LOVE, and only love towards him. Instead of looking at GOD, it is all “I,” “I,” “I.” Faith looks at GOD, as He has revealed Himself in Grace. Let me ask

you, “Am I – or is my state – the object of faith?” No. Faith never makes what is in *my heart* its object, *but GOD’s revelation of Himself in grace*.

Grace has reference to what GOD is, and not to what we are, except indeed that the very greatness of our sins does but magnify the extent of the “*Grace of GOD*.” At the same time, we must remember that the object and necessary effect of grace is to bring our souls into communion with GOD – to sanctify us, by bringing the soul to know GOD and to love Him; therefore the knowledge of grace is the true source of sanctification.

The triumph of grace is seen in this, that when man’s enmity had cast out Jesus from the earth, GOD’s love had brought in salvation by that very act – came in to atone for the sin of those who had rejected Him. In the view of the fullest development of man’s sin, faith sees the fullest development of GOD’s grace. I have got away from grace if I have the slightest doubt or hesitation about GOD’s love. I shall then be saying, “I am unhappy because I am not what

I should like to be;” but that is not the question. The real question is whether GOD is what we should like Him to be, whether Jesus is all we could wish. If the consciousness of what we are, of what we find in ourselves, has any other effect than, while in humbles us, to increase our adoration of what GOD is, we are off the ground of pure grace. Is there distress and distrust in your minds? See if it be not because you are still saying “I,” “I,” and losing sight of GOD’s grace.

It is better to be thinking of what GOD is than of what we are. This looking at ourselves, at the bottom is really pride, a want of the thorough consciousness that we are *good for nothing*. Till we see this, we never look quite away from self to GOD. In looking to Christ, it is our privilege to forget ourselves. *True humility does not so much consist in thinking badly of ourselves, as in not thinking of ourselves at all. I am too bad to be worth thinking about.* What I want is to forget myself and to look to GOD, who is indeed worth all my thoughts. Is there need of being humbled about

ourselves? We may be quite sure that will do it.

Beloved, if we can say as in Romans 7, “*In me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing,*” we have thought quite long enough about ourselves; let us then think about Him who thought about us with thoughts of good and not of evil, long before we had thought of ourselves at all. Let us see what His thoughts of grace about us are not take up the words of faith, “*If GOD be for us, who can be against us?*”

- J.N. Darby

* * *

PEERLESS WORTH

“What have I to do any more with idols?”

(Hosea 14:8.)

HAST thou heard Him, seen Him,
known Him?

Is not thine a captured heart?

“Chief among ten thousand”
own Him,

Joyful choose the better part

Idols once they won thee,
charmed thee,

Lovely things of time and sense;

Gilded, thus does sin disarm
thee,

Honey'd, lest thou turn thee
thence.

* * *

THE PIONEER PAGE

Adoniram Judson, the first missionary to Burmah, when in 1809 he, after much heartsearching and conviction, found the answer in Christ as Saviour. From the day when the light of GOD shone into his anxious soul, his aims in life were settled. His former question "How can I win advancement and glory?" was now altered to the simple petition – "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" He heard the call of the Master to go and carry the message of peace to the heathen. His enthusiasm on the subject was intense and, what is more important, it was LASTING; and interest that long years of hard work and bitter suffering could not damp, had taken possession of his soul. Nothing could turn his mind from that decision he had formed and made.

His sufferings through a hostile government, at that time, were intense but his faithful wife followed him from

prison to prison to give him the necessary food to keep him alive, she suffered indignities (she was a lady) of the worst kind from his enemies and her's but she remained steadfast to her Lord and her suffering husband.

He wrote to a friend in 1815 – "We feel more and more convinced that the Gospel must be introduced into this country (Burmah) through many trials and tribulations, through much self denial and earnest prayer. Further, if a ship were lying in the river, ready to convey me to any part of the world, even at the suggestion of many Christian friends to leave Burmah, I would prefer dying here. This is an immense field and, it seems, now thrown wholly in our hands. If we desert it, the blood of the Burmese people will be required of us." Seasons of illness, amid entire deprivation of comfort, often added to the discouragement of this faithful pair, but they went on, steadily aiming "to give the Burmans their first idea of a Saviour." "Is Burmah", exclaims Judson, "to remain a solitary instance of the inefficiency of prayer, or the

forgetfulness and care of a merciful and faithful GOD?"

When he returned to Boston, amid seeking crowds to listen to him, his subject was not as to his sufferings and trials but – "MY PRECIOUS SAVIOUS." When a friend

remonstrated that the people wanted to hear of trials etc., he answered "What better subject could they have than – "MY PRECIOUS SAVIOUR."

-W.H.F.

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