

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life

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Leader's Study Guide

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Part I The Life

"You Christians seem to have a religion that makes you miserable. You are like a man with a headache. He does not want to get rid of his head, but it hurts him to keep it. You cannot expect outsiders to seek earnestly for anything so uncomfortable" (Source Unknown).

Chapter 1

Is it Scriptural?

Proposition.

Jesus Christ is to be the Saviour from the penalty of sin and the Savior from its power.

Scriptural Proof.

- *Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear.*
- *2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*
- *Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*
- *Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

1. Can we believe the Savior, who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, could possibly be satisfied with the many meager Christian lives in the Church today?

Answer.

The church can never accept the idea that Christ is satisfied with the meager Christian lives in the Church today.

2. The *Bible* says, "*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*" (1 John 3:8). Can the church ever imagine that this is beyond Christ's power, and that He finds Himself unable to accomplish the thing He was manifested to do?

Answer.

The church must never imagine or entertain the thought that Christ is unable to accomplish the grand objective He was manifested to do.

Complete Deliverance from Sin

3. What spiritual truth should the believer concentrate on?

Answer.

Concentrate in the very beginning on this one thing: Jesus came to save you, now, in this life, from the power and dominion of sin, and you are more than a conqueror through His power.

4. Provide Scriptural evidence the victory of Christ delivers us from our sins, our bondage, and our defilement.

Answer.

- *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*
- *Luke 1:74-75 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*
- *Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*
- *Ephesians 5:26-27 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
- *Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*
- *Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
- *1 Peter 2:21-22 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*
- *1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

- *Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*
- *Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Sin Contrary to God

5. In the matter of sin shall we continue to sin that grace may abound?

Answer.

God forbid. *Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

6. Do we make void the law through faith?

Answer.

God forbid. *Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

7. Can we suppose the Holy God who hates sin in the sinner is willing to tolerate it in the Christian?

Answer.

“There is nothing so contrary to God as sin, and God will not tolerate sin ruling man, His masterpiece. When we consider how God’s mighty power destroys that which is contrary to Him who can believe that the devil must always stand and prevail?” (17th century Quaker)

Power over Sin

8. What must be done with the *Bible* if we say that it is impossible for God to deliver man out of sin?

Answer.

We must throw away the *Bible*.

9. Must I be a believer and yet have no faith that I can be sanctified and live a holy life? Can I never have mastery, can I never have victory over sin? Must it prevail over me as long as I live? What can be done?

Answer.

The believer can ask God to open the eyes of understanding by His Spirit that the heart might know “*what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 1:19,20).

10. When the believer has some faint glimpse of spiritual hope and divine power what promise of Deuteronomy 20:1-4 can be embraced?

Answer.

God has promised to fight for His own.

Write out Deuteronomy 20:1- 4

When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 2 And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, 3 And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; 4 For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Chapter 2 God's Side and Man's Side

“A real work is to be wrought in us and upon us. Sins with which we constantly struggle are to be conquered. Evil habits are to be overcome. Wrong attitude and feelings are to be rooted out. A positive transformation is to take place. So, at least the Bible teaches. Now, somebody must do this” (HWS).

1. What is the believer's part in the matter of sanctification and what is God's part?

Answer.

The believer's part in the area of sanctification is to trust. God's part is to work.

God's Part in Faith

2. Why are trusting and working contrasted but not contradictory?

Answer.

Trusting and working are not contradictory because it is two different parties that are concerned.

3. Why must the believer trust his case to another?

Answer.

The Christian must trust his case to another party so the party can go to work and perform the action necessary.

4. In spiritual matters what will the Lord do to the heart that has been entrusted to His care?

Answer.

In spiritual matters the Lord's part is to do the thing entrusted to Him. He disciplines and trains by inward exercises and outward divine care or direction. He brings to us all the refining and purifying resources of His wisdom and His love.

5. What is the one great purpose of all the work the Lord does on behalf of those who trust in Him?

Answer.

He makes everything in our lives and circumstances subservient to the one great purpose of causing us to grow in grace, and of conforming us day by day and hour by hour, to the image of Christ.

6. How long must the believer wait to see good results in the area of sanctification?

Answer.

Soon, we see actual results concerning what we have given Him in trust.

The Potter and the Clay

7. List the three steps of faith and the process of divine development.

Answer.

By a step of surrender and trust the believer embraces his cause to Christ and by a process of development God works a work of grace in the life.

By a step of faith the believer becomes a member of the body of Christ and by a process the Christian is made to “grow up into Him in all things” (Eph. 4:15).

By a step of divine faith the believer puts himself into the hands of the Divine Potter who, by a gradual process, makes the Christian into “a vessel unto [His own] honor, fit for [His] use and prepared unto every good work” (2 Tim. 2:12).

8. In what way must a believer be like a lump of clay before God?

Answer.

As a lump of clay rest fully in the hands of the potter to be treated and shape according to a higher wisdom so the believer must abandon itself to the working of the Heavenly Potter in order to be made into a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use.

The Maturing Process

9. What expectations must not accompany the process of trusting and waiting on God to work in the heart?

Answer.

The Christian must not expect to be of prominent service to the Savior or even to be put into immediate usage in the Lord’s harvest. There are trails of the faith that should be anticipated. *1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But 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.*

10. At any given moment that a life is yielded to the Potter, what is His attitude towards it?

Answer.

From the moment the lump of clay comes under the transforming hand of the Potter, it is, during each day and hour of the process, just what the Potter wants it to be at that hour or on that day.

11. How long might the maturing process last?

Answer.

It may require years of training and discipline to mature the soul into a vessel that will be in all respects to His honor and fitted to every good work. Biblical examples on this point abound.

Joseph was left to linger in prison longer than might be expected (Gen. 40:23).

Moses was forty years in the backside of the desert before he was called to lead the children of Israel (Ex. 3:1).

Elijah was many weeks or months beside the brook that dried up (1 Kings 17:7).

The Twelve Disciples were with Jesus for three years.

Trust in the Foundation

12. What *Scripture* unites the apparently contradictory concepts of trusting only and working?

Answer.

The Christian can say with Paul, *“I labored.... yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (1 Cor. 15:10).*

13. In the divine economy what has God declared He cannot do?

Answer.

God's working at times depends upon human cooperation according to divine design. It was said that our Lord could not do mighty work at a certain place because of the unbelief of the people. *Mark 6:5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.*

Chapter 3 The Life Defined

“Most Christians are like a man who was toiling along the road, bending under a heavy burden when a wagon overtook him, and the driver kindly offered to him help on his journey. He joyfully accepted the offer, but when seated in the wagon continued to bend beneath his burden, which he still kept on his shoulders. ‘Why don’t you lay down your burden?’ asked the kind-hearted driver. ‘Oh!’ replied the man, ‘I feel that it is almost too much to ask you to carry me, and I could not think of letting you carry my burden too’” (HWS).

1. What is the only true Christian life and how is it described in *Scripture*?

Answer.

The only true Christian life is the higher life described by the words, the *“life hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).*

2. List the three chief characteristics of the higher Christian life.

Answer.

First, there is a complete surrender to the Lord. Second, there is a perfect trust in Him resulting in victory over sin. Third, there is an inward rest of the soul.

3. How is the higher Christian life different from the lower range of Christian experience?

Answer.

In the higher Christian life believers allow the Lord to carry every burden and manage the affairs of the heart instead of trying to do the work for themselves.

Getting Rid of Burdens

4. Most Christians seem determined to carry their own burdens in life despite the invitation of Christ in *Matthew 11:28. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* What is a burden?

Answer.

A burden is anything and everything that troubles the heart, whether it is spiritual concerns or earthly concerns.

5. What is the first burden or the greatest burden to be carried in life?

Answer.

The first burden and the greatest burden we have to carry in life is self. The most difficult thing we have to manage is self.

6. Write out a suggested prayer for the releasing of self to the Saviour.

Answer.

A Prayer for Sanctification

“Here, Lord, I give myself to you. I have tried in every way I could think of to manage myself and to make myself what I know I ought to be, but I have always failed. Now I give it up to you. Take complete possession of me. Work in me all the good pleasure of your will. Mold and fashion me into a vessel that seems good to you. I leave myself in your hands. I believe you will, according to your promise, make me unto ‘a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work’” (2 Tim. 2:21).

*“Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay.*

*Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.
Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!*

*Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow,
Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit ’till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.”*

Adelaide A. Pollard, 1907

Leaving Burdens with God

7. Is it enough to take our troubles to the Lord?

Answer.

It is not enough to take our trouble to the Lord. We must leave them there. *1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

*“If the world from you
withhold of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along
with meager fare,
Just remember, in His Word,
how He feeds the little bird;
Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there.*

*Leave it there, leave it there,
Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there.*

*If you trust and never doubt,
He will surely bring you out.
Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there.*

*If your body suffers pain
and your health you can't regain,
And your soul is almost sinking in despair,
Jesus knows the pain you feel,
He can save and He can heal;
Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there.*

*When your enemies assail and your heart begins to fail,
Don't forget that God in Heaven answers prayer;
He will make a way for you
and will lead you safely through.*

*Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there.*

*When your youthful days are gone
and old age is stealing on,
And your body bends beneath
the weight of care;*

*He will never leave you then,
He'll go with you to the end.
Take your burden to the Lord
and leave it there."*

Charles A. Tindley, 1916

8. What biblical promise of God, when obeyed, will bring the "peace of God" to the heart?

Answer.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Rest in the Lord

9. What is the key that will unlock the whole treasure house of God?

Answer.

The soul that has discovered the secret of simple faith has found the key that will unlock the whole treasure house of God. *1 John 5:4 "and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"*.

*"Encamped along the hills of light,
Ye Christian soldiers, rise.
And press the battle ere the night
Shall veil the glowing skies.*

*Against the foe in vales below
Let all our strength be hurled.
Faith is the victory, we know,
That overcomes the world.*

*Faith is the victory!
Faith is the victory!
O glorious victory,
that overcomes the world.*

*His banner over us is love,
Our sword the Word of God.
We tread the road the saints above
With shouts of triumph trod.*

*By faith, they like a whirlwind's breath,
Swept on o'er every field.
The faith by which they conquered death
Is still our shining shield.*

*On every hand the foe we find
Drawn up in dread array.
Let tents of ease be left behind,
And onward to the fray.
Salvation's helmet on each head,
With truth all girt about,
The earth shall tremble 'neath our tread,
And echo with our shout.
To him that overcomes the foe,
White raiment shall be giv'n.
Before the angels he shall know
His name confessed in Heav'n.
Then onward from the hill of light,
Our hearts with love aflame,
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night,
In Jesus' conqu'ring Name."*

John H. Yates, 1891

Freedom from Care

10. What two analogies can illustrate what it means to rest in the Lord?

Answer.

The first analogy of what it means to rest in the Lord is that of going to sleep. The strain of the day has ceased, for a few hours at least, and the work of the day is forgotten when the body lays down to rest on a bed of ease. No longer is there a need to hold up an aching head or a weary back. Self is trusted to the bed in absolute confidence, which upholds without strain on lingering thoughts on the part of self. So Christ is able to bear the soul up that reposes on Him.

*"Rest of the weary, joy of the sad,
Hope of the dreary, light of the glad;
Home of the stranger,
strength to the end,
Refuge from danger, Savior and Friend!*

*Pillow where lying, love rests its head,
Peace of the dying, life of the dead:
Path of the lowly, prize at the end,
Breath of the holy, Savior and Friend!*

*When my feet stumble, to Thee I'll cry,
Crown of the humble, cross of the high;
When my steps wander, over me bend
Truer and fonder, Savior and Friend!*

*Ever confessing Thee, I will raise
Unto Thee blessing, glory and praise:
All my endeavor, world without end,
Thine to be ever, Savior and Friend!"*

John S. B. Monsell, 1863

The second analogy of what it means to rest in the Lord is that of the child-life. *Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.* The chief characteristic of a child is to live a life of freedom from care. Its life is one long trust from year's end to year's end. It trusts its parents. It trusts its teacher. A child's trust is answered abundantly. In like manner the life of a Christian should be one of absolute trust. *Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?* When a life of childish trust is placed in the Lord the promise of Isaiah 26:3 will be realized. *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."*

"There is such a thing as having one's soul kept in perfect peace here in this life. Child-like trust in God is the key to its attainment" (HWS).

Chapter 4 How to Enter In

1. Should the higher life be looked upon as an attainment? Why or why not?

Answer.

The higher life is not something that is attained by self-effort but is obtained according to the principle of free grace. It is the gift of God in Christ Jesus.

2. Who receives the glory and credit for the believer obtaining the higher life?

Answer.

Because the higher life is a gift of grace it is the Giver who receives the honor and glory. He gives to those “*which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness*” (Rom. 5:17). These “*shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*”

3. In short who alone receives the gift of the higher life from God and how is it received?

Answer.

God can bestow the gift of the higher life only upon the fully consecrated soul. It is received by faith.

Entire Surrender to God

4. Define the term “*consecration.*”

Answer.

Consecration is the act of setting apart for the service of God.

5. What is another word that might convey the sense of consecration?

Answer.

The word abandonment might express the idea of consecration. A person must abandon their own ideas and self efforts in order to implicitly obey the known will of the Lord.

6. How do many Christians think about the Father in heaven?

Answer.

Many Christians seem to think the Father in heaven only wants to make their lives miserable. However, just the opposite is true. Jesus said, “*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*” (John 10:10).

“Better and sweeter than health, or friends, or money or fame, or ease, or prosperity, is the adorable will of our God. It gilds the darkest hours with a divine halo, and sheds brightest sunshine on the gloomiest paths” (HWS).

According to our Faith

7. After a conscious act of surrendering the will and all of life to the Lord what is next in importance?

Answer.

After surrender, faith is next in importance.

8. Specifically, what is faith to believe?

Answer.

As the heart believes that sins are forgiven by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, so the heart is to believe the life hid with Christ in God is to be entered by faith. It has been plainly declared, “*as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him*” (Col. 2:6).

9. Compare the “*then*” in salvation and “*now*” in sanctification.

Answer.

- Then we trusted Him for forgiveness. Now we must trust Him for righteousness and it shall be ours.
- Then we took Him as Savior from the penalties of our sins in the future. Now we must take Him as a Saviour in the present from the bondage of our sins.
- Then He was our Redeemer. Now He is to be our Life.
- Then He lifted us out of the pit. Now He is to seat us in heavenly places with Himself.

*“In lovingkindness Jesus came
My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depths of sin and shame
Through grace he lifted me.*

*From sinking sand he lifted me,
With tender hand he lifted me,
From shades of night to plains of light,
Oh, praise his name, he lifted me!”*

*He called me long before I heard,
Before my sinful heart was stirred,
But when I took him at his word,
Forgiv'n he lifted me.*

*His brow was pierced
with many a thorn,
His hands by cruel nails were torn,
When from my guilt and grief, forlorn,
In love he lifted me.*

*Now on a higher plane I dwell,
And with my soul I know 'tis well;
Yet how or why, I cannot tell,
He should have lifted me.”*

10. List three characteristics of faith.

Answer.

- Faith is theological. Every believer has been given many gifts of divine grace and many promises. *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*. Faith believes the theological teaching of the Scripture.
- Faith is practical. Though the theological teaching is provided “*According to our faith*” is always the limit and the rule (Matt. 9:29) of what will be done in the heart and life.
- Faith must be present. Faith says, “*Christ now forgives my sins.*” Faith says, “*Christ now delivers me from the power of my sins.*”

Believe God will do It

- *Jesus* saves me now – it is He.
- *Jesus saves* me now – it is His work to save.
- *Jesus saves me* now –I am the one to be saved.
- *Jesus saves me now* – He is doing it every moment.

*'Tis the grandest theme
through the ages rung;
'Tis the grandest theme
for a mortal tongue;
'Tis the grandest theme
that the world e'er sung,
“Our God is able to deliver thee.”*

*He is able to deliver thee,
He is able to deliver thee;
Though by sin oppressed,
go to Him for rest;
“Our God is able to deliver thee.”*

*'Tis the grandest theme
in the earth or main;
'Tis the grandest theme
for a mortal strain;
'Tis the grandest theme,
tell the world again,
"Our God is able to deliver thee."*

*'Tis the grandest theme,
let the tidings roll,
To the guilty heart,
to the sinful soul;
Look to God in faith,
He will make thee whole,
"Our God is able to deliver thee."*

William A. Ogden, 1887

Part II
Difficulties

Chapter 5 Difficulties Concerning Consecration

1. What is the chief temptation that assaults the soul in considering the matter of consecration?

Answer.

The chief temptation that assaults the soul at the point of seeking consecration concerns feelings. We can not believe we are consecrated until we feel that we are.

2. List the three-fold order of God's rule in spiritual matters.

Answer.

First, His promises (His *Word*). Second, faith. Third, feelings.

Put Faith before Feeling

"You must not wait to feel that you have given yourself, or that God has taken you. You must simply believe it to be the case" (HWS).

3. When a sacrifice was offered to the Lord in the *Old Testament* economy, what happened to it regardless of the attitude of the one who presented the offering?

Answer.

The Levitical law of offerings to the Lord clearly states that everything which was given to the Lord became, by the act of giving, something holy. *Leviticus 27:28 Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing is most holy unto the LORD.* Even if the heart of the worshipper was not as sincere as it might have been what was offered became "*most holy*" in the sight of God. Therefore, in the matter of consecration, believe the offer of the life to God has been accepted by Him and has become "*most holy*" in His sight.

Believing Brings Assurance

*"Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture
now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness,
lost in His love.*

Fanny Crosby, 1873

4. Based on Deuteronomy 26:17-19 what happened when Israel affirmed God was their God?

Answer.

When the Israelites said God would be their God the Lord said they would be His people. A great transaction was made. *Deuteronomy 26:17-19 Thou hast avouched [affirmed] the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice: 18 And the LORD hath avouched [affirmed] thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; 19 And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.* When we confess the Lord to be our God, and express the desire to walk in His ways and keep His commandments, He affirms that we are His and that we shall keep His commandments.

According to His Will

5. What passage in the *New Testament* provides confidence it is the will of the Father for the Christian to be entirely surrendered to Him?

Answer.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

“If you are tempted to doubt whether you really have completely surrendered yourself, face it with the assurance that you have. Don’t even debate the matter. Get rid of such ideas instantly. Get rid of it firmly” (HWS).

Sometimes an initial full surrender of the heart to Christ lingers because of a “*darling sin*” that is provided for and protected. The honest heart knows that a seed of rebellion lies dormant in the soul and will spring up if any movement is made towards full consecration of the heart to Christ.

This “*darling sin*” might be a physical habit such as smoking, drinking or substance abuse. This “*darling sin*” might be psychological such as an addiction to pornography or an inappropriate relationship that is difficult to terminate for any number of reasons. Let the heart that wants to be free from the bondage of sin remember this. Once the life is fully surrendered to Christ the “*darling sin*” will be something He must deal with in His own will and way. In other words the issue is not, “*Can I be holy and then present myself to Christ to be holy.*” The issue is, “*Lord, I am unholy and I fear I will not be able to be holy for I know of this area of weakness and rebellion. However, in as far as You will take control of my life in total then I do not have to worry how this “darling sin” is going to be dealt with. I only know you can deal with it and shall according to Your sovereign grace.*” The realization the Savior and not self shall deal with the strongest lust brings freedom to pursue full consecration (Stanford E. Murrell).

God Works in You

6. Once the surrender has been made it needs never be question. The next point is to believe God takes what has been surrendered and accepts it. What is the believer to do at this juncture?

Answer.

The believer must be content that God will begin to work in the heart to will and to do of His own good pleasure. There is nothing more to be done at this juncture than to be an obedient child.

7. What produces a wavering experience of sanctification?

Answer.

A questioning of one’s surrender or God’s acceptance due to wavering faith will produce a wavering experience.

8. Do you completely surrender yourself to Christ at this moment?

Answer.

- Yes _____
- No _____

9. If the answer is no or only partially write out a prayer of complete surrender.

Answer.

“Lord, I am yours. I give myself entirely to You. I believe that You take me. I leave myself to You. Work in me all the good pleasure of Your will, and I will only lie still in Your hands and trust You. Amen.”

10. How can the believer make the prayer of surrender a conscious reality?

Answer.

The believer can make the prayer of faith a conscious reality by confessing it to oneself, to God and to friends. There is divine assurance that a life of surrender and obedience will produce “*an holy people unto the Lord, as He hath spoken*” (Deut. 7:6).

Chapter 6 Difficulties Concerning Faith

*“Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”*

Mark 9:23-24

1. Why do so many Christians struggle with the concept of faith?

Answer.

Many Christians struggle with the concept of faith because they think of faith as a tangible item—either a Christian exercise of the soul, or an inward attitude of the heart. Faith is perceived to be a passport to God’s favor or a coin from His purse to purchase His gifts.

Definitions of Faith

- Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe (Augustine).
- Faith is a voluntary anticipation (Clement of Alexandria).
- A man lives by believing something, not by debating and arguing about many things (Thomas Carlyle).
- God our Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing (Martin Luther).
- Faith has to do with things that are not seen and hope with things that are not at hand (Thomas Aquinas).
- Faith is not merely your holding on to God—it is God holding on to you. He will not let you go! (E. Stanley Jones).
- Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand (Augustine).

Leadership, IV, 4, p. 87.

The Simplicity of Faith

“If you have ever trusted a friend for an important matter, I beg you, trust yourself and all your spiritual interests in the hands of your heavenly Friend now, and never allow yourself to doubt again” (HWS).

1. Define faith.

Answer.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith is simply believing God. God has spoken in His Word concerning the way of salvation. If you believe the truth you are saved. If you believe a lie you are lost. In both cases the act of believing is the same.

2. List five individuals who are believed or trusted in everyday life.

Answer.

- Mothers trust their children to the care of day care workers.
- Patients trust their health care to professional medical experts.
- Diners trust their food to those who prepare it.
- Individuals get into taxies and trust the drivers.
- Millions each day climb on board a train or a plane and sit back for the ride.

Have Confidence in the Holy Spirit

3. What is to be said when a person says, *“I cannot believe God without the Holy Spirit”*?

Answer.

It is true there can be no faith apart from the gracious work of God the Holy Spirit in the heart. It is also true the Holy Spirit is always ready to help our infirmities. *Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

*“I will believe, I do believe,
That Jesus Christ died just for me,
And on the cross
He shed His blood,
From sin to set me free.”*

Cease to Worry

4. What two spiritual concepts are more incompatible than oil and water ?

Answer.

Trust and worry are more incompatible than oil and water yet so little of trust is there in the Church the Lord wondered “*when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8).

“You do not find it difficult to trust the management of the universe and all outward creations to the Lord. Can your own case be more complex and difficult than these, that you have to be anxious or troubled about His management of you?” (HWS).

Believe all God’s Promises

5. What must be put into the act of believing?

Answer.

The will must be put into the act of believing.

6. What scriptural promises are designed to encourage and enhance faith?

Answer.

- *Hebrews 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.*
- *Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.***
- *Hebrews 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*
- *Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.***
- *1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*

Chapter 7 Difficulties Concerning the Will

1. In what primary sphere of spiritual reality is the Christian life not to be lived though it often is?

Answer.

The Christian life is not to be lived in the sphere of the emotions.

2. Define the “will.”

Answer.

The will of man does not refer to what a person wishes or even purposes to do but refers to the deliberate choice, the deciding power to which all that is in the person must yield obedience.

“We are not constrained by servile necessity, but act with free will, whether we are disposed to virtue or inclined to vice: (St. Ambrose).”

Choose to Believe

3. The will guides and determines the emotions. True or false?

Answer.

It is true the will guides the emotions. Like a caboose on a train the emotions follow the thoughts of the heart.

A Surrendered Will

4. What passage directs Christians to surrender themselves completely to God?

Answer.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. See also Matthew 6: 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

5. What should a Christian do when they discover an emotion that loves a particular sin the will hates?

Answer.

First, the Christian must not believe he is under the control of the emotions for Christ has freed the soul from sin as a ruling principle. *Roman 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.* Second, the Christian must engage the mind in prayer. One lady who found her emotions loved a sin which her soul hated prayed, *“Lord, you see that I love this sin emotionally, but in my real central self I hate it. Until now my emotions have had the mastery.*

But now I put my will into your hands, and give it up to your working. I will never again consent in my will to yield to this sin. Take possession of my will, and work in me to will and to do of your good pleasure.”

6. How is the Christian to handle the feeling of unreality and hypocrisy?

Answer.

When this feeling of unreality or hypocrisy comes, do not be unduly troubled by it. Only see to it that your will is in God’s hands. See that your inward self is abandoned to His working that your choice, your decision, is on His side. Then leave it there.

Because the *Word of God* judges not only the thoughts but also intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12) any motion to evil that is embraced and loved must be judged and not simply dismissed or ignored. *1 Cor 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.* No tyrant of a Pharaoh of Egypt ever ruled more ruthlessly than the Tyrant of Sin. No Pharaoh let his people go more reluctantly than Sin. The strength of sin’s passions are like the raging of the sea (*Stanford E. Murrell*).

Will What God Wills

7. Using a domestic analogy what is the relationship between the will and the emotions?

Answer.

The will is like a wise mother in a nursery. The emotions are like crying children. The mother makes up her mind to have her children do what she believes to be right and best. The children complain and indicate they won’t do it. However, the mother knows that she is in control and pursues her course lovingly and calmly in spite of all their complaints. The result is the children are won over sooner or later.

The power of the emotions on the will must not be underestimated because the will responds to the strongest influence upon it. However, the emotions are not to be overrated either for they can be controlled by the power of God, the promises of the Word and the consecration of the heart to the Father. If authority is granted to the emotions to dominate the soul then evil deeds will be done. If authority is not granted to the emotions to rule over the will then higher principles will prevail (*Stanford E. Murrell*).

Psalm 143:8-10

“Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.”

Chapter 8 Difficulties Concerning Guidance

1. What passages of *Scripture* set forth the promise that any Christian can know the will of the Lord provided the heart is fully surrendered to Him?

Answer.

- *John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*
- *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
- *James 1:5 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.*
- *Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

God Knows All

2. Based on Luke 14:26-33 where might the will of God lead?

Answer.

The will of God might lead a person contrary to all that friends or family think is the right path to travel. *Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

3. List four ways divine guidance comes.

Answer.

Divine guidance comes to the Christian through the *Scriptures*, through providential circumstances, through the convictions of our own higher judgments, and through the inward impressions of the Holy Spirit on our minds. God speaks where these four principles are in harmony.

Guidance from the Bible

4. Demonstrate in principle how the *Bible* addresses the many important issues in the life of the believer by noting what the *Scriptures* have to say regarding dress, conversations, vengeance, standing up for our rights, the matter of forgiving, being conformed to this world, and worry.

Answer.

- **Dress.** *1 Peter 3: 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*
- **Conversation.** *Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*
- **Vengeance** *Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 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. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- **Standing up for our rights.** *Matthew 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, 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; 45 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. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. 1 Peter 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 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. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*
- **The matter of forgiving.** *Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

- **Being conformed to the world.** *Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*
- **Worry.** *Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

“It is important to remember that the Bible is a book of principles. We must be careful not to isolate Bible verses which may, in fact go against Bible principles. Remember in the fourth chapter of Luke, Satan used isolated Bible verses to tempt Christ, while Christ resisted Satan by stating Bible principles” (HWS).

Impressions in Guidance

5. Name three sources of “*impressions*” that can influence the mind of the Christian.

Answer.

- The strong personalities of those around us are the source of many of our impressions.
- Impressions also come from our physical conditions. Physical and mental health or lack thereof will influence the mind.
- Impressions can also come from Satan. *Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

6. How are impressions to be tested?

Answer.

Impressions must be tested by the Word of God and by providential circumstances. In spiritual matters the Lord goes before His people and they follow Him. *John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*

“It is never a sign of a divine leading when the Christian insists on opening his own way, riding roughly over all opposing things. If the Lord “goes before” us, He will open the door for us. We will not need to batter down doors for ourselves” (HWS).

A Desire of the Heart

7. What has God promised to put into the heart of the believer to make doing His will desirable?

Answer.

God has promised to put His new covenant into the hearts of His people. *Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

Chapter 9 Difficulties Concerning Doubt

1. What are many Christians the persistent slaves of?

Answer.

Many Christians are persistent slaves to the habit of doubting their salvation, the hope of heaven or the reality of their own inward experience.

“When we say, ‘Yes I doubt, but I do believe in God’s love more than I trust my own doubts,’ it becomes possible for God to act” (Anthony Bloom).

Doubting Displeases God

2. How can a person be helped of being a doubter?

Answer.

- Encourage the doubter to seek to be freed of their doubting.
- Teach the doubter of the perfect deliverance the Lord Jesus offers.
- Do not listen to their excuses.
- Remind them of how parents would be hurt if their children doubted their love.
- Show the doubter from Scripture that doubting is a terrible sin for *“he that believeth not God hath made him a liar” 1 John 5:10.*
- Expose how a review of one’s own shortcomings can be the guise for indulging doubt of the goodness, intent, power and grace of the Lord. Forgotten are the words of Jesus in *Luke 5:31 They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.* In *Luke 15:4* Jesus asked, *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?*

“Any thoughts that are different from what He Himself has said are wrong. They dishonor Him. It is always sinful to indulge in doubts [of unbelief] throughout your Christian life” (HWS).

Deliverance from Doubts

3. Where is the stronghold of sin?

Answer.

The stronghold of sin is in the will. The Christian must believe that in the act of regeneration the will has been set free from the reign of sin and can will to do that which is good in the sight of God through the working of divine power in the soul. *Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Therefore, make it a definite act of the surrendered and determined will not to doubt again. 2
*Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed
away; behold, all things are become new.*

*“Cultivate a continuous habit of believing and all doubts will vanish in the blaze of the glory of
the absolute faithfulness of God” (HWS).*

*1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ.*

Chapter 10 Difficulties Concerning Temptations

1. What major mistakes are often made concerning temptation?

Answer.

First, people often think temptation will cease after salvation. It will not. More likely, it will increase. Second, it is believed that temptation is sin. It is not.

Temptation is not Sin

2. Why is temptation not sin?

Answer.

Temptation is not sin in the same way a person is not in error when a bugler breaks into the house to steal. Satan comes to suggest evil such as doubts, blasphemies, jealousies, envying and pride and then turns and says, "*You are wicked to think such things!*"

"You cannot keep the blackbirds of temptation from flying around your head but you can keep them from landing."

Martin Luther

Six Ways to Keep the Blackbirds of Temptation from Landing

- **Pray.** *Matt 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*
- **Watch.** *Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
- **Hide the Word in the heart.** *Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
- **Confess.** *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- **Grow.** *2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*
- **Put on the whole armor of God.** *Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

The Source of Temptation

3. Why can temptation not be sin?

Answer.

The *Bible* says the following about temptation. *James 1:12 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. James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.*

Sin, Satan, Self and the World

While Satan is certainly one major source of temptation the natural inclinations of a fallen heart is another source. Jesus said “*For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man*” (*Matt 15:19-20*). James wrote, “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*” (*James 1:14*). As the devil and the flesh provide a source of temptation so does the world which is why the Christian is commanded not to love the world. *1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (Stanford E. Murrell).*

More than Conquerors

4. Is all time spent in combating temptation lost?

Answer.

Time spent in combating temptation is holy time. It is time redeemed. It is time not lost for there is a blessing associated with the conflict. *James 1:12 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.*

5. What is to be the emotional attitude of the believer in the hour of testing or temptation?

Answer.

The attitude of the believer in the hour of testing is to be one of joy. *James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Joy is the emotion that is produced by one's well being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires “*This is the secret of joy. We shall no longer strive for our own way; but commit ourselves, easily and simply, to God's way, acquiesce in His will and in so doing find out peace*” (*Evelyn Underhill*).

6. What is the way to victory over temptation?

Answer.

The way to victory over temptation is faith. This is the foundation of the higher Christian life. Our one great motto should be: "*We are nothing. Christ is all.*" Always and everywhere start to stand, and walk, and overcome, and live by faith. It is true the way to victory over temptation is faith.

First, there must be faith that a way of escape has been provided so that sin need not scar the soul leaving shame and guilt. *1 Cor 10:13 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.*

Second, there must be faith that the victory has already been won in Christ. *Col 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Third, there must be faith that no matter what the out come might be at any given moment the ultimate victory belongs to the Lord who will remain faithful. *Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified* (Stanford E. Murrell).

*"I need Thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
can peace afford.*

*I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

*I need Thee every hour,
stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power
when Thou art nigh.*

*I need Thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
or life is in vain.*

*I need Thee every hour;
teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.*

*I need Thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessèd Son.”*

Annie S. Hawks, 1872

Chapter 11 Difficulties Concerning Failures

1. Do teachers of the high life teach that it becomes impossible to sin?

Answer.

Teachers of the interior life do not say that it becomes impossible to sin. They only insist that sin ceases to be a necessity, and a possibility of continual victory is opened before us. Such is the clear purpose of salvation.

Select *New Testament* Passages on Sanctification

- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*
- *2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
- *1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

2. What is to be said about sins of ignorance?

Answer.

Sins of ignorance are committed. But since they are done in ignorance they do not bring the soul into condemnation. The biblical promise is that if we will confess known sins God will be faithful to forgive and to cleanse from all unrighteousness, including sins of ignorance. *James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Identifying Sin

3. What two extremes regarding sin must be avoided in living out the ethics of the Christian life?

Answer.

The first extreme that must be avoided in regard to sin is to become discouraged and give up faith and every effort to find victory of sin in the soul. The second extreme is to refuse to be honest about the presence of sin.

“We are not preaching a state but a walk. The highway of holiness is not a place but a way” (HWS).

4. Is there false humility in the Christian experience? How is it characterized? Can discouragement cause the heart to turn into water?

Answer.

There is false humility in the Christian which is characterized by excessive mourning over a situation instead of discovering the cause for it and taking corrective measures. The heart can be turned to water when sin is found in the church and there is no spiritual victory at an expected time. This was the experience of Israel. The people became discouraged over their defeat at Ai. *Joshua 7:5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. 6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? While the situation was serious God’s solution was to stop prayer and stop false humility and to do something about sin in the sanctuary. *Joshua 7:10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?**

Confess Sin Immediately

5. How quickly will the Lord forgive sin that is honestly confessed?

Answer.

God will immediately and completely forgive sin that is honestly confessed. *Jeremiah 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.*

6. What must the believer do once sin is confessed?

Answer.

Sin confessed is sin forgiven and in the divine economy sin forgotten in the sense that it will not be brought up again as a basis of condemnation. *Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

Examples of Temptation

7. If a person is surprised they can treat someone badly after determining to be consecrated to God what might be a negative consequence?

Answer.

If a person acts badly towards someone else after believing to be consecrated to God the temptation might be to fail to apologize to the person and become self centered in amazement at the evil of the human heart. Some people prefer to wallow in bitterness and depression rather than receive a present forgiveness and a present healing based on a sincere apology to the person wounded. *Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

8. If a person has a burst of anger and is immediately sorry and confesses the wrong what might be a positive consequence?

Answer.

While irrational anger is condemned in Scripture, it does occur. When expressed, if the heart confesses the wrong and apologizes there is divine forgiveness. If failure occurs and is treated the same way, it will become less and less in frequency. *Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

Causes of Failure

8. What are the ultimate causes of failure to walk in the deeper life?

Answer.

Anything cherished in the heart which is contrary to the will of God, be it ever so insignificant or deeply hidden, will cause us to fall before our enemies.

Crippling Sins of the Soul

- A conscious root of bitterness
- Self-seeking,
- Harsh judgments
- Slackness in obeying the voice of the Lord
- Doubtful habits
- Questionable surroundings
- A subtle leaning to our own understanding
- A general lack of trust in God
- Failure to listen to the gentle voice of the Spirit thereby quenching Him

Secret Corners of Sin

9. What lies at the root of most of the failure in the interior life?

Answer.

Some apparently unimportant habit or indulgence lies at the root of most of the failure in this interior life. Some secret corner is kept locked against the Lord. Some evil thing is hidden in the recesses of our hearts, and so we cannot stand before our enemies.

10. What is the solution to secret sin in the soul?

Answer.

The solution to secret sin in the soul is to walk in the light.

This means first, being honest with God. *Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Second, it means depending on Christ to destroy the works of the devil and the flesh. For this reason He came into the world. 1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the *devil*. *Only Christ can make the believer "perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:21).*

Wicked, not Weak

If the cause for moral failure does not lie in the strength of the temptation, nor in personal weakness or in any lack in the power or willingness of our Savior to save us then another cause must be sought and found. The ultimate cause of moral failure lies in realizing the unredeemed will is not merely weak it is essentially wicked. Until there is this shocking confrontation with the nature of the will there can be no motive to change. The honest heart will confess with David and say "*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*" The heart will go on to acknowledge, "*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*" Finally, the desperate heart will plead with God "*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow*" (*Ps 51:5-7*) (*Stanford E. Murrell*).

Chapter 12 Is God in Everything?

1. Why is a distinction made between God as the Author of all and God as the Agent of all?

Answer.

Not everything that happens in life is positive. Children die. Cancer spreads through the body. People prove to be weak and hurtful. We know God cannot be the Author of evil for He is holy. *Ps 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.* While maintaining His holiness God can be the Agent in the sovereign administration of evil matters as He works all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11).

Receiving all as From God

2. Cite twelve biblical passages which indicate all second causes are under the sovereign control of God and so must be received and submitted to as being from the Father.

Answer.

- *Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*
- *Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*
- *Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*
- *Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*
- *Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
- *Isaiah 43:2 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.*
- *Daniel 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.*
- *Psalms 33:10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.*
- *Isaiah 40:28 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.*

- *Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.*
- *Psalms 91:2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Psalms 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*
- *Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

A Father's Protection

3. What evidence is there to suggest Joseph understood the dark days of his life were from God.

Answer.

In Genesis 50:20 Joseph told his brothers, “*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*” God can make the wrath of man to praise Him (Psa. 76:10), and even the sins of others to work together for good to those that love God (Rom 8:28).

4. Does God speak to His church in visions?

Answer.

There is no reason not to believe God still speaks to His people through visions. *Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

Joy in Trials

5. Why is it so important to see God in everything?

Answer.

Nothing else but seeing God in everything will make us loving and patient with those who annoy and trouble us. People and circumstances are God's medicine, however bitter at times, to conform us into the image of Christ. As people do not rebel against the bottles that contain challenging medicines to take so Christians should not react against the "bottles" whom the Lord uses to minister to His children. *2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

Part III

Results

Chapter 13 Bondage or Freedom

1. What are the two types of Christian experience?

Answer.

There are two types of Christian experiences. One is of bondage and the other is of freedom.

2. Describe the mental and emotional state of the Christian who lives in bondage.

Answer.

In a state of bondage the soul is controlled by a stern sense of legal duty. If God is obeyed it is from a fear of punishment or from an expectation of wages or rewards earned. There is a cause and effect concept to life with little grace. Self is viewed as a servant.

3. Describe the mental and emotional state of the person who lives in freedom.

Answer.

In a state of freedom the controlling power is an inward life principle of righteousness. The will of the Divine Life-Giver is manifested without fear of punishment or hope of reward. Self is viewed as a son.

4. What is a spiritual sin?

Answer.

A spiritual sin is a sin of the heart. It is revealed by a wrong attitude about God.

5. In living out the ethics of the Christian life what error found its way into the church of Galatia?

Answer.

The believers in Galatia shifted the ground of their Christian life from one of faith to one of works. *Having "begun in the Spirit"* they began to seek to be *"made perfect by the flesh"* (Gal. 3:3).

6. Illustrate the heart that is in the Spirit and the heart that is still in the flesh.

Answer.

There are two men. Neither one steals. However, one has a heart that would steal if it could but does not for legal fears. The other has a heart that would not steal if it could for the Spirit controls it. Again, there are two people neither of which commits physical adultery. One does not sin out of fear of the consequences of being caught. The other does not sin out of concern for the glory of God and because the soul is ruled by the Spirit. It is obvious the Christian life is meant to be lived by the Spirit and not by the flesh.

7. What happens when the flesh does start to dictate behavior?

Answer.

When the flesh does start to dictate behavior then the indefensible will be defended. In the church at Galatia this meant forcing Gentile Christians to live under the Mosaic Law with certain forms and ceremonies. In modern America the life of the flesh manifested includes insisting that homosexual congregations are legitimate and the church can ordain homosexual bishops. The indefensible is defended.

Bondage in Legalism

8. Why is being right more important than doing right?

Answer.

Being right is more important than doing right because if we are right in our inward being, we will eventually do right in our outward actions. Sometimes, it is possible to do right without being right at all.

“Doing is valuable only as it is an indication of being” (HWS).

9. What did Paul mean when he spoke of the Galatians being *“fallen from grace”*?

Answer.

The Galatians made the mistake of thinking that something else other than Christ was necessary for their right Christian living. The Jewish brethren had come along to teach that Christ alone was not enough, and obedience to the ceremonial law must be added. Gentiles were being instructed to live as the Jews (Gal. 2:14).

10. What in the modern church parallels what took place in Galatia?

Answer.

There are some who would add resolutions, or Christian work, or church going, or religious ceremonies of one sort or another as a condition of salvation.

11. Make a contrast between Law and Grace.

Answer.

- **Law.** The Law says, *“Do this and you will live”*. *Leviticus 18:5 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.*

Grace. Grace says, *“Live and then you will do”*. *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

- **Law.** The Law says, *“Pay what you owe”*. *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...*

Grace. Grace says, “*God forgives you*”. *Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Romans 6:23 ... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- **Law.** *Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

Grace. *1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

- **Law.** *Deuteronomy 27:26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.*

Grace. *Romans 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

- **Law.** The Law demands Holiness.

Grace. Holiness is given by grace.

- **Law.** The Law says, “*Do*”.

Grace. Grace says, “*Done*”.

- **Law.** Extorts the unwilling service of a slave.

Grace. Wins the loving service of a son.

- **Law.** Makes blessings the results of obedience.

Grace. Makes obedience the result of blessings. *Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

- **Law.** The Law says, “*If...*”

Grace. Grace says, “*Therefore...*”

- **Law.** The Law was given to restrain man’s old nature.

Grace. Grace was given to bring freedom to man’s new nature.

Christ Sets us Free

12. Who is exalted in religious legal bondage?

Answer.

A religion of bondage always exalts self. It is what I do – my efforts, my wrestling, my faithfulness (or lack of the same).

13. Who is exalted in a religion of liberty?

Answer.

A religion of liberty leaves self nothing to glory in; it is all Christ. *Psalms 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*

Heirs of God

14. How do spiritual blessings come to the Christian?

Answer.

Our possessions come to us, not by working for them, but by inheritance from our Father. *Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Spiritual Blessings

15. What are the spiritual blessings found in Christ in 1 Corinthians 1:30?

Answer.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Bondage or Freedom

16. Is the Christian's secret of a happy life a mystical thing that ordinary people cannot understand?

Answer.

The life hid with Christ in God is not something that is strange or mystical. It is simply realizing the difference between being in bondage and being in freedom. Those who know God as their Father know the whole secret.

"Our freedom must come, therefore, from an understanding of the mind and thoughts of God towards us" (HWS).

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Chapter 14 Growth

1. What is a great objection made against those who promote the higher life teaching?

Answer.

A great objection made against those who promise the higher life is there is no teaching about growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Grow in Grace

2. What is a basic misunderstanding between those who insist on growing in grace and knowledge gradually and those who maintain it is possible to make a definite step into the “*land of promise*”?

Answer.

Many Christians are trying to grow *into* grace, instead of growing *in* it. The children of Israel traveled for forty years, taking many weary steps, and finding little rest from their wanderings. Yet, at the end of the journey they were no nearer the Promised Land than they were at the beginning. In order to get possession of the land, it was necessary first for them to be in it.

“In order to grow in grace it is first necessary to be planted in grace” (HWS).

3. What does “*growing in grace*” mean?

Answer.

To grow in grace means to understand the love of God. The soul must be planted in the very heart of this divine love, enveloped by it, steeped in it. The soul must give itself to the joy of God’s love and must refuse to know anything else.

Growth without Anxiety

4. What *Scriptures* support the idea that growth in grace is different from growth by self-effort or legality of every kind and is without anxiety?

Answer.

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

“Grow, by all means, dear Christians, but grow in grace, and then let the divine Husbandman cultivate you in His own way and by His own means. Put yourselves out in the sunshine of His presence and let the dew of heaven come down upon you” (HWS).

Abide in the Vine

5. How can the Christian be both passive and active in spiritual growth?

Answer.

In spiritual growth the Christian is passive regarding self and active regarding attention and response to God.

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. 5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. 6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. 7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

Joel 2:22 Be not afraid...for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength...And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed (Joel 2:22-26).

*“More love to Thee,
O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee;*

*More love to Thee, more love to Thee!
Once earthly joy I craved,
sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
give what is best.*

*This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!*

*Let sorrow do its work,
come grief or pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers,
sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me:
More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!*

*Then shall my latest breath
whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
my heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!"*

Elizabeth E. Prentiss, 1856

Contentment in Growth

6. What is growth the result of?

Answer.

Growth is the result of a life principle. All the stretching and pulling and worrying in the world will not produce growth. The life hid with Christ in God is the principle that shall produce spiritual growth in the life of the believer. Therefore, let the Christian live with contentment in the presence of God and there will be spiritual growth. It is inevitable. *Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.*

Chapter 15 Service

1. How is much of Christian service viewed?

Answer.

Much Christian service is considered to be a burden and not a delight.

Serving in Love

2. In the matter of joyful service what is God's way of working in a person?

Answer.

God's way of working is to get possession of the inside of a person, to take control and management of the will, and to work it for Himself. Then obedience is easy and a delight and service becomes perfect freedom. *Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

Strength in Yielding

3. Who should decide where an individual is fit to be useful in Christian service?

Answer.

The Master-workman surely has a right to use any tool He pleases for His own work if and when He pleases.

Responsibility and Results

4. When a life of trust and rest in the Lord is lived what two burdens are lifted from the believer?

Answer.

When a life of trust and rest in the Lord is lived the believer discovers that duty ceases to be universal and becomes personal and individual. There are “*diversities of gifts*” by divine design (1 Cor. 12:4). In addition the realization comes that not every act of service is a perpetual obligation. To pass a tract or to witness as the Lord leads does not mean a lifetime of passing tracts to all or witnessing to every person apart from divine opportunity.

Rest in Service

5. In what way does the life of faith deliver the soul from the bondage of thoughts that follow Christian service?

Answer.

After acts of Christian service the soul either congratulates itself upon its success and is lifted up with pride, or it is distressed over its failure and is utterly cast down into a form of depression. The life of faith commits the moment to the Lord and leaves the results with Him.

Chapter 16

Practical Results in the Daily Walks

1. What must happen if Christianity is to advance in the world?

Answer.

If Christianity is to make any headway in the present time, it must be proved to be more than a theory. Lives must be literally transformed by the mighty power of God.

A Christ-like Nature

2. Is the following statement true or false? For the most part, the follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is satisfied with a life so conformed to the world in almost every respect that, to a casual observer, no difference is discernable.

Answer.

Though written in 1875 this statement can be easily defended.

Twenty five Holy Obligations

- Christians must come out from the world and be separate.
- Christians must not be conformed to the world in character or in conduct.
- Christians must set their affections, their emotions on heavenly things, not on earthly ones.
- Christians must walk through the world as Christ walked.
- Christians must have the same mind set that Christ had.
- Christians must abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul.
- Christians must disentangle themselves inwardly from the affairs of this life that Christ may be pleased to have good soldiers of the Cross.
- Christians must abstain from the appearance of evil.
- Christians must be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ sake, is forgiving.
- Christians must demonstrate they are not of the world even as Christ was not of the world.
- Christians must not resent injustice or unkindness but must return good for evil, and turn the other cheek to the hand that hits them.
- Christians must take the lowest place among others.

- Christians must not seek their own honor but the honor of others.
- Christians must not stand up for their own rights but the rights of others.
- Christians must do everything not for their own glory but for the glory of God.
- Christians must be holy. It is written, *Leviticus 11:45* “*be holy, for I am holy.*”
- Christians must be Christ-like everywhere and to all.
- Christians must prove they possess what they profess.
- Christians must be real followers of Christ and not followers only in theory.
- Christians must completely turn their backs on everything that is contrary to the perfect will of God.
- Christians must be a “*peculiar people*” (*Titus 2:14*), not only in the eyes of God but in the eyes of the world around us.
- Christians must demonstrate by their habits, their attitudes, their conversations and their pursuits they are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Christians must demonstrate they are not of the world.
- Christians must not feel liberty to use personal energies exclusively in the pursuit of worldly means; rather they must honor the command of Matthew 6:33. *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- Christians must not look upon money as their own. They must look at it as belonging to the Lord to be used in His service.

Results of a Hidden Life

3. List twenty-one characteristics that flow from a life hid with Christ in God.

Answer.

A life hid with Christ in God will produce the following characteristics.

- Meekness.
- Quietness of spirit.
- A submissive acceptance of the will of God.
- A willing to see that all things are pleasing to the Lord.

- A calmness of mind in the midst of toil.
- A yieldedness to the will of others.
- An insensibility to slights and affronts.
- The absence of worry.
- Deliverance from care and fear.
- The laying aside of thoughts of self.
- Full consideration for others.
- A renunciation of self-indulgent habits.
- A surrender of all purely fleshly gratification.
- Taking up a holy cause for others.
- Ceasing to engage in useless occupations.
- A new love for the glory of God.
- Songs sung praising the Lord.
- The effort is made to witness for the Lord.
- The body is rededicated to do His will.
- The thoughts grow more heavenly minded.
- The character is transformed into the image of Christ.

Moment by Moment Obedience

4. In what manner does the Good Shepherd lead His sheep?

Answer.

Step by step the Lord leads His sheep. The heights of Christian perfection or maturity can only be reached each moment by faithfully following the Guide who only asks we yield ourselves up to His guidance.

5. Define consecration.

Answer. Consecration means inevitable obedience—nothing more, nothing less.

Chapter 17 The Joy of Obedience

“Perfect obedience would be perfect happiness, if only we had perfect confidence in the power we were obeying” (Unknown).

Surrender without Limitation

1. What degree of intimacy is the Christian said to possess with Christ?

Answer.

According to John 14:21 the believer can possess the commandments of Christ. If he keeps them then he loves the Lord and is loved by the Lord but keep the commandments of Christ he must. *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

2. There are many relationships in life that requires little devotion. Is Christianity one of them?

Answer.

The simple answer is no. Christianity demands a surrender of the life without limitation to the will of the Lord. *John 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, 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. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.*

“He did not spare Himself. How can you spare yourself?” (HWS).

Separated unto Him

3. Have you ever longed to lavish your love and attention on someone who is unapproachable or who is a stranger? Have you ever strongly wanted to be surrendered and devoted to someone?

Answer.

Yes _____

No _____

4. In the act of surrendering the will to the Lord, does the believer alone receive the joy?

Answer.

In the act of surrendering the will to the Lord He too has a measure of joy in the grand transaction. The believer has joy in the Lord. *1 John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.* And the Lord has joy in the believer. *John 17:13 And now come I to thee [Father]; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

Let Him Have All

*“All to Jesus, I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.*

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.
All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.*

*All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.*

*All to Jesus, I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.*

*All to Jesus I surrender;
Now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory, to His Name!”*

Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1896

5. What is the highest state of blessedness?

Answer.

The highest state of blessedness is to hear the Word of God and do it. *Luke 11:27 And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. 28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*

Chapter 18 **Divine Union**

1. What is the goal in all of God's dealings with the soul?

Answer.

The divine objective of God in dealings with the soul is to bring it into oneness with Himself. *John 17:21 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.... 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

The Reality of the Christ-life

2. Define the concept of "soul-union."

Answer.

The soul union, which is the subject of this book, is nothing less than the unspeakably glorious mystery of an indwelling God. *1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

3. Is this spiritual soul union only for the elite and most spiritually mature of believers?

Answer.

Soul union can be the possession of even the weakest and most failing believer in Christ reflected in the great and precious promises given to the church of Corinth, the most carnal of all the early assemblies.

Living in Our Emotions

3. What care must be taken in order to avoid a false sense of security of being in Christ?

Answer.

It is possible for strong emotions of love and joy to be mistaken as sign and proofs of divine union where a Christ-like life is lacking. *1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.* Oneness with Christ means being made a "partaker of (His) nature" (2 Peter 1:4). The fruit of the Spirit will be natural to the nature of the one who is Christ-like.

4. What test did Jesus give as testimony He was one with the Father?

Answer.

The test Christ gave, by which the reality of His oneness with the Father was to be known, was the fact He did the works of the Father. *John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one. 31*

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

5. According to *Scripture*, who is a liar?

Answer.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Awareness of Christ's Presence

7. Is it possible for Christ to be in or near the house and His presence not be recognized or received?

Answer.

Using the language of accommodation it is possible for the Lord to be near in the heart of what He calls His home and yet not be well received. The Christ-like life demands a greater degree of awareness of His presence. *Rev 3:20 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.*

A Voluntary Invitation

8. Why will the Lord not force His presence upon our lives?

Answer.

The Lord will not force His presence on us because He wants us as His companions and His friends, and a forced union would be incompatible with this. A bonified relationship must be voluntary.

9. List the three steps to a voluntary relationship of love with the Lord.

Answer.

The first step is to believe the Scriptures teach the glorious indwelling of God. *2 Cor 6:16 "...as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* The second step is to surrender all of self to Him to be possessed by Him. Finally, faith must affirm He has taken possession and is indwelling. Self must then be considered to be dead to sin and Christ is the only life.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Chapter 19 The Chariots of God

1. What are the chariots of God sent to take the soul to its high place of triumph?

Answer.

The chariots of God come to the soul in the form of enemies, sufferings, trials, defeats, misunderstandings, human malice, cruelty, losses, neglect, disappointments, unkindnesses, misery and wretchedness.

2. What prayer needs to be prayed in order to see the chariots that surround us to carry us to victory?

Answer.

“Lord, I pray Thee open my eyes that I may see” (2 Kings 6:17).

*“Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.*

*Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!
Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.”*

Clara H. Scott, 1895

God’s Chariots

3. What happens when the believer steps into the chariots of God?

Answer.

As Elijah was translated to heaven so the believer will be translated when God’s chariots are accepted. This translation is a translation of the soul into spiritual realities even as the believer is said to be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

Earthly Chariots

4. Because the Christian tends to “*go down to Egypt*” for spiritual help, what must God do?

Answer.

God must and will destroy all earthly chariots that are relied upon for spiritual strength so that He alone is our source and comfort and sustaining life. Though the Lord moves in mysterious ways He still “*rideth upon the heavens*” (Psa. 68:4). For Joseph, slavery and imprisonment seemed to be strange chariots to bring him to a leadership position but they were ordained.

Unseen Chariots

5. How can the Christian maintain confidence in the unseen chariots?

Answer.

Faith is still the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).

“The baby carried in the chariot of its mother’s arms rides triumphantly through the most difficult places and does not even know they are difficult. And how much more we ride triumphantly who are carried in the chariot of the ‘arms of God!’” (HWS)

Chapter 20

The Life on Wings

1. What is the natural longing of the heart when confronted with miseries?

Answer.

It is the natural tendency of the heart to want to flee from all human miseries. *Psalms 55:6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest. 7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. 8 I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.*

A Way of Escape

2. What are the “wings” God has provided as a way of escape from the crushing burdens of life?

Answer.

God has provided the wings of Surrender and Trust. *Isaiah 40:31 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.*

Mount up with Wings

3. What does “overcome” mean?

Answer.

To “overcome” means to come over and not be crushed under by the circumstances of life. The Spirit has come to make the believer “*more than conqueror*”. *Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

Made for Heavenly Heights

4. In the matter of Surrender and Trust is the Christian active or passive?

Answer.

The Christian must be active in the matter of experiential attitude of surrender and trust. The mind is engaged. The soul is focused. The will is determined to know Christ alone. The wings of faith must be spread and used or they are of no avail.

Hindrances to Flying

5. What hindrance is there to flying and mounting up spiritual on wings of an eagle?

Answer.

Doubt is one hindrance to spiritual flight. The wings of trust are disabled by doubt and the soul will fall back to the earth.

Cut Loose from Earthly Ties

Though all the world be desolate, the prophet declared, “*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation*” (Habakkuk 3:18).

Leader’s Supplemental Material

Doctrine of Sanctification

1. Sanctification is a supernatural work of God in the heart that produces holiness of life.
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
2. Just as God must save the soul He is the One who must sanctify it.
 - *John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

There is much talk today about having better self-esteem through self-help programs. Popular psychology and the New Age movement has much to say about behavior problems and how to be a better person—and yet society grows progressively worse. Only the Potter can change the vessel and make it new.

3. Sanctification is a continuous process. Regeneration is instantaneous while sanctification takes time. How much time depends upon the individual. It is possible to grow quickly in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. It is possible to accelerate the inner cross work and enjoy a greater degree of holiness but it does take time.

Many years ago a student asked the president of Obelin Bible College whether he could not take a shorter course than the one prescribed. “*Oh yes,*” replied the president, “*but then it depends on what you want to make of yourself. When God wants to make an oak, he takes a hundred years, but when he wants to make a squash he takes six months.*”

4. God will sanctify His people. Christian, you who are struggling with secret chains of bondage, take heart.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

5. The process of sanctification requires the intelligent and voluntary activity of the believer in the discovery and mortification of sinful desires. While Jesus prayed in John 17:17 the Father would sanctify believers in the sphere of truth Paul pleaded with believers to be responsible by *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Cor 10:5).

Philippians 2:12-13 unites the Divine activity and human responsibility. *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

6. To be very practical a large part of holiness consists in the formation of simple spiritual habits.

- Scripture reading. *2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- Scripture meditation. *Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*
- Scripture memorization. *Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
- Secret prayer. *Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
- Faithfulness to Church. *Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
- Soul winning efforts. *Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*
- Acts of charity. *James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

In all of these activities there is a voluntary and intellectual assent.

7. In the process of sanctifying His people the Agent whom God uses is the Holy Spirit.

- *John 14:17-18 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit can be arrested by sins committed against Him.

- The Spirit can be grieved. *Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- The Spirit can be quenched. *1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*
- The Spirit can be resisted. *Acts 7:51 Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*
- The Spirit can be lied to. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*
- The Spirit can be blasphemed. *Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*

8. It is the will of the Lord the Spirit be not sinned against but released in the life.

- The Spirit is released when we confess our utter helplessness before the Lord and our failure to be good in His sight.
- The Spirit is released by faith that Christ will indeed come to us as He has promised. The object of saving faith is Christ and the object of sanctifying faith is Christ. Sanctification does not begin with self but with the Saviour. *2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Is this not true?

In the moment of potential temptation when the lusts of the flesh are strong and sin seems to come in like a flood there is the tendency to suppress the truth and violate the conscience.

A *Scripture* passage comes to mind or a spiritual thought of prohibition but all that is dismissed so that inappropriate behavior can take place. “*Sin makes a person become self-justifying*” (John MacArthur). It is true. The antidote for such behavior is a fresh look at the Crucified One not only for salvation but also for sanctification. Keep the Cross before your heart.

*“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His marvelous face.
And the things of this world will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.”*

Doctrine of Self-Sanctification

1. The practice of some form of self-sanctification is an established principle in the Word of God. In the *Old Testament* the people of God were reminded often to set themselves apart in a special way for service and sacrifice and worship.
2. The priests of God were to sanctify themselves before entering into His presence.
 - *Exodus 19:22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.*
3. The people of God were to sanctify themselves and be a holy people.
 - *Leviticus 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
 - *Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.*
4. When a new home was established it could be sanctified unto the Lord.
 - *Leviticus 27:14 And when a man shall sanctify his house to be holy unto the LORD, then the priest shall estimate it, whether it be good or bad: as the priest shall estimate it, so shall it stand.*
5. The Lord was pleased when man sanctified a portion of his possession.
 - *Leviticus 27:16 And if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD some part of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.*
6. Prior to receiving a blessing of God the children of Israel sanctified themselves.
 - *Numbers 11:18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.*
7. When God's people sanctify themselves divine wonders can be performed.
 - *Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*
8. Practical godliness involves self-sanctification and thus a measure of personal responsibility to root out inward corruption.

- *Joshua 7:13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.*
9. The prophet Samuel called upon the family of Jesse to sanctify themselves even though they did not know they would receive a great blessing from the Lord. Personal holiness is its own virtue.
- *1 Samuel 16:5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.*
10. No matter how menial the task for the Lord, divine service requires a sanctified people.
- *1 Chronicles 15:12 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it.*
11. Ministers of the gospel must lead the people of God in the matter of self-sanctification.
- *2 Chronicles 29:5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.*
 - *2 Chronicles 35:6 So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.*
12. God's people should exhort each other to holiness.
- *Nehemiah 13:22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.*
13. There are degrees of self-sanctification. Some individuals are more conscientious than others.
- *2 Chronicles 29:34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.*
14. The mercies of God are designed to lead the people of God to self-sanctification.
- *Isaiah 29:23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.*

15. A feigned holiness will be judged.

- *Isaiah 66:17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.*

16. Ultimately God is the one who must save and sanctify His people. Nevertheless, the Lord uses means and gives grace so that a measure of self-sanctification can take place. There is human responsibility in the matter of holiness.

- *Joel 1:14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,*
- *Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:*
- *Joel 2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.*

17. Jesus has prayed for the sanctification of His people.

- *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

18. Because Christ has sanctified Himself, because Christ has prayed, Christians will be sanctified through the truth or through Bible doctrine in the soul.

- *John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

19. One of the great purposes of redemption is for the Lord to have a sanctified people.

- *Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

20. The apostle Paul prayed that God would sanctify or make the church holy.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

21. Holiness is not without a high price. Jesus had to suffer in order for the Church to be sanctified.

- *Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*

22. The last word in the *New Testament* on this topic calls upon the Christian to recognize and accept personal responsibility for holiness through self-sanctification.
- *1 Peter 3:15 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:*
23. Unless the concept of self-sanctification is recognized there will be a passive phase in the Christian experience whereby sin in the soul is not radically dealt with. In fact, its very existence is justified.
- The heart will be tempted to say, *"I am just weak."*
 - The heart will be tempted to say, *"If God does not sanctify me I cannot help myself."*
 - The heart will be tempted to say, *"It is God's fault I am the way I am."*
 - The heart will be tempted to say, *"I cannot change, I cannot be different. I have tried."*
24. It is instructive to note that in the Bible God never says, *"Try to sanctify yourself."* The imperative is given time and again, *"Sanctify yourself."* What God commands He will give strength to perform for His glory and man's good.