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2820 Eshcol Avenue, Zion, Illinois 60099

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51: 10

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

EACH DAY -M. W. Robinson

EACH DAY, as a little child, yield yourself into Jesus' hands. Each day remind Him you are His, that you desire to spend that day as pleases Him. Go into the day with the definite fact before you that you belong to Him. Trust Him to keep you without sin. But if your faith fails, don't go all down in the Slough of Despond because you failed, and did something wrong, but turn to Jesus and His cleansing blood, tell Him of your need for all His cleansing work and perfecting work in your life.

If you follow along this line, your failures even will serve to keep your need before you and before the Lord; and keep you waiting and expectant of a perfect work because He must complete His work. And your victories will increase your faith and assurance in Him. And if lots of things come to upset, don't worry -lean harder on Him. Probably He is teaching you your need of Him or showing you your failures on some line, so you will draw on Him. He is pruning and carving you, and He will prune and carve whether you like the feel or not, so long as you stay in His Hands.

When you go to bed at night, remind the Lord you are His child. Avail yourself of the blood of Jesus for every failure of that day, and don't carry it over to the next. God does not: why should you? Thus, by living one day at a time, you don't carry around such a burden of failure.

If this course is persisted in, you will gradually, more and more, let go of yourself, yield to His workings, rest in Him, have victory, acquire confidence. As you learn how to yield all responsibility in this way, the strain of "trying to be good" goes off of you. And as you yield, He takes. As you become more and more childlike, the more positively He undertakes.

PSALM 40: 1, 3; 126: 3

I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

There is much evidence in our world today that we are not in stable times nor do we feel confident or secure in America as it is not the nation we once thought it to be. Truly as believers in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, our hope and our salvation from sin and it's condemning power, our hearts are set on Him. We recognize our desperate need to be altogether His. May we be thankful and answer His Heart's cry for us to follow Him. He is worthy!

If we're honest before God, and with ourselves and one another, we admit that we are not yet in the purity of His Holiness, though we are by His grace endeavoring to follow in His Way. There is yet much mixture in both our inner being and our outward lives. Our Lord is looking for ones who are willing to be refined. It is He who does the work as we yield ourselves to Him. It is Love. *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* Ps. 139: 23-24. Our response to God's call can be greatly strengthened by praying scripture, giving thanks and worshipping Him. Yes, and do the Mercy daily that we can do to others.

The Cross lights our way. "Until you are renewed in the spirit of your mind, your virtues are only *taught practices* and grafted upon a corrupt bottom.

Everything that you do will be a mixture of good and bad; your humility will help you to pride; your charity to others will give nourishment to your own self-love, and as your prayers increase so will the opinion of your own sanctity. Because until the heart is *purified to the bottom* and has felt the axe at the root of its evil (which cannot be done by outward instruction), everything that proceeds from it partakes of its impurity and corruption." Beware of self-deception. Remember Ro. 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* Ro. 6: 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.*

<u>Francis Quarles: expression of a divided heart</u>

Give Me thine heart, but as I gave it thee;
Or give it Me at least as I Have given Mine
To purchase thine.
I halved it not when I did die;
But wholly gave Myself to set thee free.

But while thine heart's divided, it is dead;
Dead unto Me, unless it live to Me alone.
It is all one To keep all, and a part to give:
For what's a body worth without a head?

Yet this is worse, that what thou keeps from Me
Thou dost bestow upon My foes
And those not Mine Alone, but thine:
The proper cause of all thy woes
From whom I gave my life to set thee free.

Have I betrothed thee to Myself, and shall
The devil, and the world, intrude Upon My right
Even in My sight?
Think not that thou canst Me so delude:
I will have none, unless I may have all.

I made it all, I gave it all to thee,
I gave all that I had for it:
If I must lose, I'd rather choose
Mine interest in it all to quit:
Or keep it whole. Oh, give it whole to Me!

Oh, what words of the purity and holiness and love of God's own heart. How is it we make it so hard to simply surrender all to our Savior and be His child? Might not it be that our 'lighthearted, casual permissiveness of sin renews His suffering again? Are we not happy to love and serve Jesus? He gives grace to the humble. "His power can make you what you ought to be; His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free: His love can fill your soul and you will see 'Twas best for Him to have His way with thee." Thank God for Calvary!

Jesus said, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."* By death comes life. Christ died. "The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church." We know that it is the soulish self-life of this world that must die. It is unfit for Heaven. The life of Jesus Christ our Savior lives forever and we live in Him. His resurrection is our new eternal life through faith (real, not lukewarm, not worldly, not self) in Him. His life was spent blessing, helping, healing, loving, teaching … He lives!

Our Savior is our Bridegroom. He cares and meets our need. Our union with our risen Lord is of such a character that we become partakers of His very nature; drawing our spiritual life from His Spirit; our mental vigor from His mind; our physical strength from His risen body; and our power for service from His omnipotence. He is already in us, the dawn of the coming day. Our eternal relationship has begun. Christ is in us the hope of the glory yet to be revealed.

Blessed are the sons of God,
They are bought with Christ's own blood;
One with God, with Jesus one;
Glory is in them begun.

There is a wonderful simplicity and universality in the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. It covers every area of need: the inner life of the soul, the needs of the body, the circumstances of life and needs of work and duty. We sum it up as Love Complete.

To follow Jesus we consider some of our needs.

We need: Detachment. (Phil. 3) Paul did not see himself as having attained but apprehending, forgetting the past and reaching forward. He was pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. His eye was on Jesus. His heart was set. "The Apostle's complete repose in Christ as the righteousness of God *for* him, and then his deep nearness to his Lord as the power of God *in* him, alike seem not so much to banish as utterly to preclude any thought about himself but that of his own imperfection. He writes as one whose very last feeling is that of complacency in his spiritual condition. His spiritual position, in Christ, as he is 'found in Him,' fills him with much more than complacency; it is his glory and his boast. But when he comes to speak of his spiritual condition, the possessing thought is that all is imperfect and progressive. He has a perfect blessing; but he is an imperfect recipient of it; he has 'not attained.' He is deeply happy, but he is thoroughly humble. He has had a vision of absolute holiness which has completely guarded him from the delusion of thinking that he is himself absolutely holy, even in the fullest state of grace."(1) We need to detach ourselves from sinful and inexpedient things, or we shall not experience His fullness and glory.

We need: Dethronement. (2 Cor. 5:14,15) *For the love of Christ constrains us; because we judge that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.* May we see Jesus on the throne as King of our lives. May Holy Spirit cast 'Self' aside.

More of Thy life and more I have,
As the old Adam dies;
Bury me, Savior, in Thy grave,
That I with Thee may rise.

May Christ be all in all, our selfishness be turned to selflessness.

Oh! The bitter shame and sorrow,
That a time could ever be,
When I let the Savior's pity
Plead in vain, and proudly answered,
"*All of Self and none of Thee*."
Yet He found me; I beheld Him
Bleeding on the accursed tree:
Heard Him pray, "Forgive them, Father,"
And my wistful heart said faintly,
"Some of Self and some of Thee."

Day by day His tender mercy,
Healing, helping, full and free,
Sweet and strong, and ah! So patient,
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
"Less of Self, and more of Thee."
Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea, Lord,
Thy love at last has conquered;
Grant me now my supplication,
"*None of Self and all of Thee."*

-Theodore Monod

We need: Dependence. Jesus said, *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just ; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.* Jn. 5:30. Jesus loved and obeyed His Father. He did nothing of Himself, John: 5:19,30; 8:28. He never spake of Himself, John 7:16-18; 8:38; 12:49. Miracles were not of Himself, John 5:36; 10: 37,38. He was the Sent One, John 4:34; 5:24; 9:4; 11:42; 12:44, 45. He did not use human judgment, John 5:30. We must depend on Jesus! "To have Him and make use of Him is peace, and power, and purity. To do without Him is impossible; it is death. To use Him only partially is perpetual unrest and disappointment. He must be 'all things in all things;' then there shall be a great strength and great holiness with it, and at last an 'appearing with Him in glory,' to crown the process, and give it its development forever." -- Bishop Moule

We need: Devotion. The disciples, having seen Jesus do many wonderful things to bless and help people, may have had some of their own ideas of how the future would play out. In John the teaching of Jesus was stirring questions in their minds. He had told them, "*A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."* His ministry was to become their ministry. He was leaving them, but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit was coming. It was critical that they keep His Word. Really keep it. It is so now. Our conception of our times may not be 'just how it's going to play out.' Be devoted to Jesus.

We need: Discipline. Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. The battle is won in Christ. We must appropriate it in our lives here on earth. The Holy Spirit is come.

The Lord is our Deliverer. *Peace I leave with you, My peace give I unto you: not as the world give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. …. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence. John 14: 27, 31*

(Some thought & content is from: Beyond Humiliation.) -John G. Mantle

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WHAT PRAYER IS

Prayer is communion with God. It is man talking to God and God talking to man. There are ways to pray: prayer of thanksgiving and praise, prayer of intercession, and petition. We know that the Bible is true because of all the prayers that are in it.

In Genesis 24 Eleazer was sent on a journey by Abraham to find a wife for Isaac. As Eleazer was traveling to this far away country, he prayed to the Lord for guidance. He put out a fleece in faith for God to help him find the right maiden. In the 45th verse it says, "And before I had done speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well, and drew water; and I said unto her, "Let me drink, I pray thee." It was in his heart that he prayed. He didn't have to pray aloud for God to hear him. It was the constant communion from his heart to the Lord.

There are many people who prayed that are mentioned in the Bible. All the prophets and disciples were pray-ers. They knew who to turn to in their trouble, and how to pray for deliverance.

Jesus prayed many times while He was on this earth. He prayed for the sick, and they were healed. He prayed for the bread, and it was multiplied. Jesus taught the people how to pray and what to say. His whole life was prayer. The most wonderful prayer Jesus ever prayed, was in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He cried out to the Father for His Will to be done. Of all the agony He was in, nevertheless He prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Since Jesus prayed for the will of the Father to be done in His life, how much more should you pray for Jesus to come and possess you with His Holy Spirit, and to do His highest will in you no matter what the cost may be. Jesus gave His all for you. Won't you give your all to Him now? Won't you watch and pray, so you won't enter into temptation?

Feed My Lambs 1967 -JW

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Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Bless you!