

The Liberating Secret Newsletter

May 2009

Volume 53

The Whole Gospel, to the Whole man, to the Whole World.
(All of Christ, in and manifesting as all of redeemed humanity)

THE LIBERTY BELL

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (I Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (I Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (I Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven I am significant (Phil. 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. *:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-35)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I can approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15:16)
I am God's temple (I Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (I Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil. 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's
Child (Eph 1:15)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?

Come find out at our 8th annual
God Unlimited Enrichment
Week-End
May 14th-17th, 2009



...Come join us for the 8th Annual Conference....

“ARISE AND SHINE”

(Isa. 60:1-4)

There is a definite move of our Father in the earth today. “Arise and Shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen on thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side” (Isaiah 60:1-4).

So many are caught in the distress, the uncertainty, the suffering of just trying to live...What is happening to the human race? You may ask, “What is happening in “my world”? Who cares? What am I doing here anyway? Is there any ‘real peace’ to be had?”

Come hear life changing teachings the Apostle Paul described so extensively in all of his writings. Let the Spirit reveal to you what God revealed so powerfully to Paul. Let’s learn how to turn... defeat into victory and self-condemnation into self-acceptance...God’s way. We will begin on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM and continue all thou Friday and Saturday, ending noon on Sunday.

We invite you to a weekend that includes a rich blend of teaching and wide open sharing, —a weekend that ranges from talks that cover the Scriptural basis for:

God’s eternal purposes for His Created forms...; Where did the Glory go?...; What is Man?...; What really happened in the Garden?...; How evil fits into God’s plan...; The Radical Discovery of the Lie of ‘Independent Self’ (get

over your (false) self)...; But at the same time “Give your true humanity a break”...; How we operate as Spirit beings calling into being that which doesn’t exist...; Discovering the fullness of our Throne rights...; What does it mean to be a “King and Priest”...; and much more!!

As the Lord leads, an exciting schedule of presenters will take shape. You will be blessed by your favorite teachers, such as **Steve Pettit; Ray Hughes; Sylvia Pearce; Brian Coatney; Ron Block** to name a few. However, maybe YOU feel the urge to share, yourself. The Spirit may have put that irresistible leading into lots of you to get up and give a word of fresh insights and testimony. Get ready however, for the unexpected to take place during the “open mike” times of sharing after each teaching time.

Additionally, Friday and Saturday afternoons will feature workshop titles to choose from—each propelled by discussion and facilitated by volunteers. We anticipate that many of you will have great ideas on workshop themes, so send us your ideas.

The law of opposites guarantees plenty of good back and forth interaction; after all, the negative has its healthy place in moving to the positive.... **So expect a process more than just an end product.**

Some of our Louisville friends will be able to host some of you, but most of you will find accommodations at one of these motels that are nearby, ...in fact they are all located in the same business complex. For the **best rates** please e-mail or call: **Norma Mouser at norma@travelloptions.net** or call her at **502-420-0904; or at 1-800-223-7100.** Here are some of the local motels to choose from: Best Western (502) 267-8100; Comfort Suites (502) 266-6509; Sleep Inn (502)266-6776 or the more affordable Microtel (502) 266-6590. However going through Norma would probably be the best and most economical way. RSVP to: **sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org, or call 502-245-4581; 502-417-2110**

Our own Jenny Fienning and her crew will prepare lunches for us during the weekend so we can fellowship at the house.. Check the roster to see if you are “part of the crew” for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday lunch. Coffee, tea, water, and lemonade will be available all day... You will be responsible for your own breakfast and dinner.

Ron Block, Ray Hughes, and Julie Lee will bless us with his outstanding musical talent and the Lord may lead a number of you to bring your own instruments, songs, and inspiration. Let us know if you want to be involved with the music!!

The conference will take place in a tent on the beautiful brick patio behind our home. We **‘trust’** for balmy May breezes and the refreshing sunshine.... BUT...whatever the weather, we guarantee a weekend of enrichment as we all worship, sing, study and share together in our union with Christ.

We will be streaming this year, so friends from other countries will join us by internet.

We can’t wait to see you,
All our love,

Scott and Sylvia Pearce

PLEASE... R.S.V.P.

Call 502-245-4581 or 502-417-2110 or

Email: sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org

Spirit is Reality

Paul E. Billheimer

"Destined for the Throne"

(Number 1 note from Chapter 4 page 69)

To many people this constitutes an impossible enigma, and incomprehensible riddle, and impenetrable mystery. How can we be organically united with Christ and seated with Him in the heavens when our feet are pressing "terra firma" and we are engaged in the prosaic occupations of daily life? Paul gives us the key to this mystery in I Cor.6:17: "he that is jointed to the Lord is one spirit." In some philosophical systems, spirit is considered to be "essential reality." Material is said to be accidental, that is, it derives its reality from its relationship to spirit. For instance, when the spirit leaves the body, the body disintegrates. It loses its structure because it is dependent upon the spirit for its organization as reality. The spirit has independent reality. The body has only relative reality. It is the spirit that gives life to and sustains the body. This is what we mean when we say that the spirit is essential reality and that material is only accidental, or has only relative reality. In other words, your spirit is the real "YOU." The real person. Therefore, a person who is joined to the Lord as one spirit is, in his essential being, seated with Christ in the heaven; While the body is here, the real self is there. While a body may occupy only one place at a time, spirit is not so confined. Because "he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit." Therefore, since Christ is exalted and enthroned, the Church is exalted and enthroned with Him.



Wanted: Faith and Fools

C.T. Studd

Christ's call is to feed the hungry, not the full; to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; not to call the scoffers, but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christians professors to sleep by means of clever essay, stereotyped prayers and artistic musical performances, but to raise living churches of souls among the destitute, to capture men from the devil's clutches, and snatch them from the very jaws of hell, to enlist and train them for Jesus, and to make them into an Almighty Army of God. But this can only be accomplished by a red-hot, unconventional, unfettered Holy Ghost religion, where neither Church nor State, neither man nor traditions are worshiped or preached, but only Christ and Him crucified. Not to confess Christ by fancy collars, clothes, silver crosiers or gold watch-chain crosses, church steeples or richly embroidered altar-clothes, but by reckless sacrifice and heroism in the foremost trenches.

When in hand to hand conflict with the world and the devil, neat little biblical confectionary is like shooting lions with a pea-shooter: one needs a man who will let himself go

and deliver blows right and left as hard as he can hit, trusting in the Holy Ghost. It's experience, not preaching, that hurts the devil and confounds the world, because unanswerable; the training is not that of the schools, but of the market; it's the hot, free heart and not the balanced head that knocks the devil out. Nothing but forked-lightening Christians will count. A lost reputation is the best degree of Christ's service.

I am more than ever determined that no right nor limit shall be placed around us, other than that of our Lord Himself, "To the uttermost parts." "To every creature." I belong to "The Great God" party. I will have naught to do with "The Little God" party.

The difficulty is to believe that He can deign to use such scaly-wags as us, but of course He wants Faith and fools rather than talents and culture. All God wants is a heart, any old turnip will do for a heard; so long as we are empty, all is well, for then He fills with the Holy Ghost.



"Darrell Scott said: if you'll learn to develop the single eye of faith - Jesus said in Luke 11:34, 'If your eye be single your whole body is full of light' - and see through your circumstances and not look at them, you'll see the hand of God at work on the worst days of your life."

Have a single eye - refuse to look at Second Causes.

Note: Darrell Scott is the father of Rachel Scott who was murdered in the Columbine massacre.

The secret of Hudson Taylor's (Missionary to China) rest of heart, amid such tempests of hate, and conflict with people in power was his refusal to look at second causes. His times were in God's hands. He believed that it was with God, and GOD ALONE, he had to do. This is strikingly brought out in his article entitled "Blessed Adversity." With the experiences of Job as his text, he wrote: "Even Satan did not presume to ask God to be allowed himself to afflict Job. In the first chapter and the eleventh verse he says: 'Put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.' Satan knew that none but God could touch Job; and when Satan was permitted to afflict him, Job was quite right in recognizing the Lord Himself as the doer of these things which He permitted to be done.

"Oftentimes shall we be helped and blessed if we bear in mind that Satan is servant, and not master, and that he and wicked men incited by him are only permitted to do that which God by His determinate council and foreknowledge has before determined shall be done. Come joy, or come sorrow, we may always take it from the hand of God.

"Judas betrayed his Master with a kiss. Our Lord did not stop short at Judas, nor did He even stop short at the great enemy who filled the heart of Judas to do this thing; but He said: 'the cup which My FATHER hath given Me, shall I not drink it?'

"How the tendency to resentment and a wrong feeling would be removed, could we take an injury from the hand of a loving Father, instead of looking chiefly at the agent through whom it

comes to us! It matters not who is the postman--it is with the writer of the letter that we are concerned; it matters not who is the messenger--it is with God that His children have to do. "We conclude, therefore, that Job was not mistaken, and that we shall not be mistaken if we follow his example, in accepting all God's providential dealings as from Himself. We may be sure that they will issue in ultimate blessings; because God is GOD, and therefore, 'all things work together for good to them that love Him.'

"With peaceful mind thy path of duty run,
God nothing does, nor suffers to be done,
But thou wouldst do the same if thou couldst see
The end of all events as well as He."



The Secret of Forgiveness

by Corrie Ten Boom

"If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." – Col. 3:1-3

Corrie Ten Boom shares this true story in her book, *The Hiding Place*: It was a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there -- the room full of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face. He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message, Fraeulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!" His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.

I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness. As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened.

From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it depends not on our forgiveness nor on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself...

Letters

Dearest Sylvia:

I will get right down to business as I know you must receive a plethora of emails and communications.

I stand amazed at the continual salve that knowing true identity brings. So often I am bombarded with life and only find peace and rest back to the identity of Christ in me. Sylvia, I am so grateful not only for your knowledge of these life-giving truths but by your methods of revealing these to the hungry souls. It's always shocking (and I shouldn't be) to me how people who are so completely opposite in human form, when relaying truths, are saying identical things. God uses everything!

I am getting ready to make a lot of life-changing decisions and I've been pummeled back into the 'world of fears'. After going through quite a bit the last few weeks, some things within and some without, I came home early today....broken, tired and hopeless.

I tell you this because I received your newsletter and my soul was brought back to life. Sylvia, I heard you and Brian this morning and Brian mentioned that faith has a 'time-release' component. How wise! Your website with all of the precious saints' teachings continue to lead me through this maze of living...and I know it's the tree of Life I'm eating from.

It can be very deceiving and dark when struggle continues for some time and sometimes I'm tempted to think I'm doing something wrong to cause it....I see my resistance to God breaking down the Bastille of the false 'I' and it scares me at times to see my faith might not be what I thought it was...when it's tried. But then I'm brought back to the great truth of who I am in Christ.

Thank you so much for reminding me that it's God's job to destroy the false 'I'.

I have a love deep in my heart for you, your family and ministry. Please remember that you all are prayed over and held in confidence up to our Lord by prayer.

May God continue to bless you richly Sylvia. You're a dear!

Suzy Hall

Quotes

Every negative has its hidden resolve in God, and faith is the key that makes manifest the negatives, hidden positive. **Sylvia Pearce**

Faith looks beyond the pain, wrapped in veil of time, and sees God's eternal purposes beyond it

all. **Sylvia Pearce**

'With all sorts of doubts I am familiar, and the result of them is, has been, and will be, a widening of my heart and soul and mind to greater glories of the truth I cannot say I never doubt, nor until I hold the very heart of good as my very own in Him, can I wish not to doubt. *For doubt is the hammer that breaks the windows clouded with human fancies, and lets in the pure light.*' **George McDonald**

C.S. Lewis once said that there are two equal and opposite errors that we can fall into regarding Satan and his demons. One is to act like they don't exist; the other is to be unduly and overly interested in them.

"True and perfect obedience is a virtue above all virtues...obedience has no cares; it lacks no blessing...When I give my will up to the care of my Lord and Master and have no will of my own, God must will for me; for if He were to neglect me, He would be neglecting himself. So it is with everything; where I do not chose for myself, God chooses for me. What will he choose for me? That I shall not choose for myself." **Meister Eckhart**

Meekness is not weakness but power under restraint, for we see ourselves as we really are, and see him as he really is." **Fred Williams**

St. John of the Cross says: "(This wound is delectable (i.e. delicious)." John of the Cross goes on to say: "After the dark and painful night of the spirit there is...a divine awakening...the soul uses a similitude (i.e. an example) of one that awakens from his sleep, and says, 'how gentle and loving is...thine awakening, O Word and Spouse, in the center and depth of my soul...wherein alone, secretly and in silence, Thou dwellest as it's Lord. This divine awakening is an inspiration of the Word manifesting His dominion, His glory and His intimate sweetness."

Faith builds Heaven in the midst of Hell's despair!

Heirs of the Kingdom are those who die to *achieving* and live by *receiving*!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.

Corrie Ten Boom

"Good must be sucked out of the bitter root of seeming evil." **Brian Coatney**

"Life's disappointments are veiled love's appointments." From "Streams in the Desert", Feb. 1st.

"Sometimes God calms the storms, and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child."

The expression of true everlasting life procures itself contented as the vessel or container of Christ alone. **Jennifer Cormack**

In the pasture of the King, freely bloom two trees. One offers sacrificial unified life; the other

cloaks itself in the good works of death. If the sheep of the pasture cannot produce their own righteousness, then conversely they cannot produce their own iniquity. Will you be so entwined by the false independence of goodness you fail to express the true liberty you possess? The only good and just King tarries for your reply.

Jennifer Cormack Short Story Excerpt

Religion is guilt with different holidays- **Danny Pearce**

"If we cast aside the suggestions of Satan, the delusions of our own feelings of separation, the sense of weakness and ignorance: if we boldly possess our possessions in Christ, draw the sword of the Spirit upon the deceiver, declare by God's word that we are one with Christ and with one another, one mystic organism, one divine life flowing in and through all: then we *are* strong by faith, for His strength is in us; we *are* wise, for His wisdom is ours; we have love, joy or any other needed grace of the Spirit, for we are permeated with Him; and all we need to do is to go forward in this faith, as having and possessing, and we shall find that what is true in the realm of the Spirit, through our faith becomes manifest in the realm of the senses, whether it be power, love, joy, knowledge, or any other needed resource. Christ the head thus becomes manifest in and through His members."—**Norman Grubb**

Everything fulfills the word spoken over it, whether negatively or positively. **Kathryn Magnotto**

Break confidence in oppression! Break fellowship with fantasy. **Shirley Weaver**

What is a oak tree, but a acorn that held its ground! Author unknown

Poem of the Month

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

by Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom
Love you and Happy Resurrection Day!

A little late but still timely

Prayer Request

Stand in prayer for our 8th annual May conference. Believe with us that the Spirit will have His way of liberation, illumination, and revelation. Thank you for your support!

This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome." **"Prayer is where the action is.** John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

A great illustration is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him

until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is. Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

This Month's Article:

HOW TO OVERCOME SIN?

Charles G. Finney January 1, 1874

In every period of my ministerial life I have found many professed Christians in a miserable state of bondage, either to the world, the flesh, or the Devil. But surely this is no Christian state, for the apostle has distinctly said: "Sin shall not have dominion over you, because ye are not under the law, but under grace." In all my Christian life I have been pained to find so many Christians living in the legal bondage described in the seventh Chapter of Romans--a life of sinning, and resolving to reform and falling again. And what is particularly saddening, and even agonizing, is that many ministers and leading Christians give perfectly false instruction upon the subject of how to overcome sin.

The directions that are generally given on this subject, I am sorry to say, amount to about this: "Take your sins in detail, resolve to abstain from them, and fight against them, if need be with prayer and fasting, until you have overcome them. Set your will firmly against a relapse into sin, pray and struggle, and resolve that you will not fall, and persist in this until you form the habit of obedience and break up all your sinful habits." To be sure it is generally added: "In this conflict you must not depend upon your own strength, but pray for the help of God."

In a word, much of the teaching, both of the pulpit and the press, really amounts to this: Sanctification is by works, and not by faith. I notice that Dr. Chalmers, in his lectures on Romans, expressly maintains that justification is by faith, but sanctification is by works. Some twenty-five years ago, I think, a prominent professor of theology in New England maintained in substance the same doctrine. In my early Christian life I was very nearly misled by one of President Edwards's resolutions, which was, in substance, that when he had fallen into any sin he would trace it back to its source, and then fight and pray against it with all his might until he subdued it. This, it will be perceived, is directing the attention to the overt act of sin, its source or occasions. Resolving and fighting against it fastens the attention on the sin and its source, and diverts it entirely from Christ.

Now it is important to say right here that all such efforts are worse than useless, and not infrequently result in delusion. First, it is losing sight of what really constitutes sin; and, secondly, of the only practicable way to avoid it. In this way the outward act or habit may be

overcome and avoided, while that which really constitutes the sin is left untouched. Sin is not external, but internal. It is not a muscular act, it is not the volition that causes muscular action, it is not an involuntary feeling or desire; it must be a voluntary act or state of mind. Sin is nothing else than that voluntary, ultimate preference or state of committal to self-pleasing out of which the volitions, the outward actions, purposes, intentions, and all the things that are commonly called sin proceed. Now, what is resolved against in this religion of resolutions and efforts to suppress sinful and form holy habits?

"Love is the fulfilling of the law." But do we produce love by resolution? Do we eradicate selfishness by resolution? No, indeed. We may suppress this or that expression or manifestation of selfishness by resolving not to do this or that, and praying and struggling against it. We may resolve upon an outward obedience, and work ourselves up to the letter of an obedience to God's commandments. But to eradicate selfishness from the breast by resolution is an absurdity. So the effort to obey the commandments of God in spirit--in other words, to attempt to love as the law of God requires by force of resolution--is an absurdity.

There are many who maintain that sin consists in the desires. Be it so. Do we control our desires by force of resolution? We may abstain from the gratification of a particular desire by the force of resolution. We may go further, and abstain from the gratification of desire generally in the outward life. But this is not to secure the love of God, which constitutes obedience.

Should we become anchorites, immure ourselves in a cell, and crucify all our desires and appetites, so far as their indulgence is concerned, we have only avoided certain forms of sin; but the root that really constitutes sin is not touched. Our resolution has not secured love, which is the only real obedience to God. All our battling with sin in the outward life, by the force of resolution, only ends in making us white sepulchers. All our battling with desire by the force of resolution is of no avail; for in all this, however successful the effort to suppress sin may be, in the outward life or in the inward desire, it will only end in delusion, for by force of resolution we cannot love. All such efforts to overcome sin are utterly futile, and as unscriptural as they are futile. The Bible expressly teaches us that sin is overcome by faith in Christ. "He is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." "He is the way, the truth, and the life."

Christians are said to "purify their hearts by faith" (Acts xv:9). And in Acts xxvi:18 it is affirmed that the saints are sanctified by faith in Christ. In Romans ix:31,32 it is affirmed that the Jews attained not to righteousness "because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law." The doctrine of the Bible is that Christ saves His people from sin through faith; that Christ's Spirit is received by faith to dwell in the heart.

It is faith that works by love. Love is wrought and sustained by faith. By faith Christians "overcome the world, the flesh, and the Devil." It is by faith that they "quench the fiery darts of the wicked." It is by faith that they "put on the Lord Jesus Christ and put off the old man, with his deeds." It is by faith that we fight "the good fight," and not by resolution. It is by faith that we "stand," by resolution we fall. This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. It is by faith that the flesh is kept under and carnal desires subdued.

The fact is that it is simply by faith that we receive the Spirit of Christ to work in us to will and to do, according to His good pleasure. He sheds abroad His own love in our hearts, and thereby enkindles ours. Every victory over sin is by faith in Christ; and whenever the mind is diverted from Christ, by resolving and fighting against sin, whether we are aware of it or not, we are acting in our own strength, rejecting the help of Christ, and are under a specious delusion.

Nothing but the life and energy of the Spirit of Christ within us can save us from sin, and trust is the uniform and universal condition of the working of this saving energy within us. How long shall this fact be at least practically overlooked by the teachers of religion? How deeply rooted in the heart of man is self-righteousness and self-dependence? So deeply that one of the hardest lessons for the human heart to learn is to renounce self-dependence and trust wholly in Christ. When we open the door by implicit trust He enters in and takes up His abode with us and in us. By shedding abroad His love He quickens our whole souls into sympathy with Himself, and in this way, and in this way alone, He purifies our hearts through faith. He sustains our will in the attitude of devotion. He quickens and regulates our affections, desires, appetites and passions, and becomes our sanctification.

Very much of the teaching that we hear in prayer and conference meetings, from the pulpit and the press, is so misleading as to render the hearing or reading of such instruction almost too painful to be endured. Such instruction is calculated to beget delusion, discouragement, and a practical rejection of Christ as He is presented in the Gospel.

Alas! for the blindness that "leads to bewilder" the soul that is longing after deliverance from the power of sin. I have sometimes listened to legal teaching upon this subject until I felt as if I should scream. It is astonishing sometimes to hear Christian men object to the teaching which I have here inculcated that it leaves us in a passive state, to be saved without our own activity. What darkness is involved in this objection!

The Bible teaches that by trusting in Christ we receive an inward influence that stimulates and directs our activity; that by faith we receive His purifying influence into the very centre of our being; that through and by His truth revealed directly to the soul He quickens our whole inward being into the attitude of a loving obedience; and this is the way, and the only practicable way, to overcome sin. But someone may say: "Does not the Apostle exhort as follows: Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure"? And is not this an exhortation to do what in this article you condemn?" By no means.

In the 12th verse of the second Chapter of Philippians Paul says: "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, for it is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure." There is no exhortation to work by force of resolution, but through and by the in working of God. Paul had taught them, while he was present with them; but now, in his absence, he exhorts them to work out their own salvation, not by resolution but by the inward operation of God. This is precisely the doctrine of this tract. Paul had too often taught the Church that Christ in the heart is our sanctification, and that this influence is to be received by faith, to be guilty in this passage of teaching that our sanctification is to be wrought out by resolution and efforts to suppress sinful and form holy habits. This passage of Scripture happily

recognizes both the divine and human agency in the work of sanctification. God works in us to will and to do; and we, accepting by faith His in working, will and do according to His good pleasure.

Faith itself is an active and not a passive state. A passive holiness is impossible and absurd. Let no one say that when we exhort people to trust wholly in Christ we teach that anyone should be or can be passive in receiving and co-operating with the divine influence within. This influence is moral, and not physical. It is persuasion, and not force. It influences the free will, and consequently does this by truth, and not by force.

Oh! that it could be understood that the whole of spiritual life that is in any man is received direct from the Spirit of Christ by faith, as the branch receives its life from the vine. Away with this religion of resolutions! It is a snare of death. Away with this effort to make the life holy while the heart has not in it the love of God. Oh! that men would learn to look directly at Christ through the Gospel and so close in with Him by an act of loving trust as to involve a universal sympathy with His state of mind. This, and this alone, is sanctification.

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