

shrink back from the entire surrender this involves. There is some desire, or gratification, or ambition occupying the place where Christ should be in entire possession.

It is this divided heart that explains the weakness and fruitlessness of many Christians. We are all more or less deeply conscious that our supreme need is the power that will make life worthy and service fruitful. We often seem to ourselves as though we were smitten with some kind of spiritual paralysis so that the life does not respond to the will. Now Christ is the Source of all power, and no life can be satisfactory in which He has not His rightful place. The power of that risen and exalted Christ is communicated to believers in actual experience by the Holy Spirit.

That is really the theme of the Apostle's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. He asks a twofold blessing for the Ephesian Christians, or, rather, indicates in a twofold way what the indwelling of the Spirit means: (1) "Strengthened with the power through the Spirit in the inward man"; (2) "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." Of course we know that Christ dwells in every believer—"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His"—but He may not dwell in the sense in which Bishop Moule points out, that is, in full and undisputed possession.

The apostle indicates how this indwelling becomes a fact of experience: (1) Like every blessing, it is a gift of divine grace, "That He, the Father, may grant you." It is not a matter of education or development, important as these are, but of gift. It is by grace, and not by mere human effort or resolution, that salvation in every aspect of it comes to men. (2) Faith is the man-ward side of this great transaction. It is the hand opened to receive the divine gift, the opening of the door to welcome Christ into His rightful place, the handing to Him in free and glad surrender of the keys, that He may have entire control. Christ will not force the door nor wrench the keys from unwilling hands—"If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in."

Christ's sway is exercised in believers through His gracious Spirit, and this is what

we understand to be the full meaning of the expression, "The Indwelling Spirit." When we know the measureless love of Christ toward us, it ought not to be hard to utter some such prayer as this:

"O Lord! be thou unhindered by my soul
From working what Thou would'st for my
soul's best,
And through it for the world. To Thy
control
I yield myself entire—do Thou the rest."
Toronto

To Interpret God

By Rev. J. B. Maclean, B.D.

God's method of self-revelation is progressive. He makes Himself known in sundry portions and in sundry manners. Every one to whom His revelation is given receives his own portion according to his own peculiar capacity for assimilation. There is the portion for the child mind, and there is the portion for the matured intelligence. "He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel."

The children of Israel saw His acts. Moses perceived His ways—the moral meaning of His acts. In the wilderness journey God revealed Himself in acts of judgment and in acts of mercy. For the sins of the people there were acts of judgment, as when the scourge of the fiery serpents fell upon them. But in the same wilderness journey there were also many acts of mercy, as when the brazen serpent was lifted up, and the sufferers were healed. The people did not know God as Moses knew Him. But it was that mighty prophet's great mission to lead them not only toward Canaan but also into the deeper understanding of God's acts. In all the changing scenes of his eventful career, he was being prepared of God to fulfil the office of interpreter, so that the children of Israel as well as he himself, might learn to know God's ways.

This is God's purpose with us. It is to reveal to us not only His acts, but also His ways. In our journey through the wilderness, we meet with perils and temptations and sorrows, and taste from time to time of earth's fleeting joys. We need to be