

this what the Bible calls holiness? We do not call it health when a man, conscious of some severe illness, takes great pains to procure the help of physicians, and gives all his attention to the one matter of battling with the disease that besets him. We look on to see what is the issue of the conflict, and do not expect to regard him as possessed of health until his conflict has terminated in victory. Many men go all their days battling with disease without overcoming it, and many go on all their days battling with sin without overcoming it. It is so far a good sign when a man knows his sinfulness, as it leads us to hope that he will avail himself of the means of deliverance; nor can he be too much in earnest about it; but it is of the utmost importance that he should wage the battle with the armor of heaven, conspicuous in which is the helmet, hope of salvation, the expectation of deliverance, and faith which brings the future near. Striving for holiness is not itself holiness and should never be confounded with it. The world looks on admiringly because of the penances and austerities and mortifications and tears and prayers and vigils with which some seek for holiness; but we are told that without holiness itself no man can see the Lord. Holiness is not an achievement, but a gift. Our efforts and struggles bring us, or should bring us, to the recognition of our utter inability to purify ourselves; and happy is he who reaches the point of self-despair, realizing that he is utterly bankrupt of the ability to emancipate himself from sin. He is then in a fair way to perceive that what he himself, with all his self-tutoring and self-condemnation, is impotent to accomplish, Christ willingly undertakes to accomplish. When he ceases from the absurd enterprise of bringing a clean thing out of an unclean, there is an opportunity for Christ to show what He can do in the way of saving men from their sins. We are not under the law, but under grace, both as regards justification and sanctification. "Sin shall have no more dominion over you," is the promise distinctly made to believers, for the reason that they are not under the law, but under grace. That is to say, we are not left to our own efforts, but the power of Christ comes into our hearts to do what we cannot do. We reckon ourselves dead unto sin, by reckoning that He who died for us and rose again is with us and in us, and that sin has to encounter not us, but Him. Recognition of Christ is victory. "Who is he that overcometh the world but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Men are brought out of darkness into God's marvellous light, that they may minister to their fellow-men, becoming lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. But in order that they may be free to engage heartily in this service, it is necessary that their powers be liberated from the necessity of carrying on a continuous warfare within. There is enough to engage the utmost powers of every man in the outer world in efforts to impart to others what God has shown to him. When the thirst of his own soul is satisfied in Christ, rivers of living water flow forth from him. But sin unsubdued within him disables him, compelling him to give his chief attention to himself. Full salvation is the liberation of all our powers from the thralldom of sin, that they may be used by Christ for extending that kingdom which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

"I write unto you, young men," says the Apostle John, "because ye are strong, and have overcome the wicked one." Again, "He that is born of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." The victory here spoken of is doubtless the victory over inward sin, whereby a believer becomes fitted to engage in the work of battling with sin in the open, and seeking the deliverance of those who are led captive of Satan at his will. The great aim of the Prince of this world is to keep the believer occupied with himself, to keep him engrossed in introspection, and fighting in his own strength with one that is stronger than himself. But the faith whereby we recognize the power and readiness of Christ to meet and discomfit our inward foes, and cast them out as He did the unclean spirits of old, deliver us from the necessity of spending all our moral and spiritual strength in fruitless efforts, and sets us free for the work of battling him who is entrenched in the hearts of others.

"Christ is made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption." In Him we have these, in ourselves never. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus maketh us free from the law of sin and death." Christ is our holiness, and is so forever. The earth never becomes independent of the sun, so that it can shine by itself; and the believer never becomes independent of Christ, so that he can walk in his own holiness. Take away the sun, and the earth is enveloped in its pristine darkness; take away Christ from the saint, and the sainthood is gone, sin is in its old ascendancy.—*Christian Alliance.*