

WHY MANY FAIL TO FIND ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION.

It cannot be the will of our Heavenly Father that any sincere soul should struggle so hard and so long, as many have done, with nothing to show for it. For many, after the experience of years, feel in their hearts the humiliating fact that they have not as much meekness, patience, humility, zeal for God and the souls of men nor as much love to God and the brethren, as they had the first week of their adoption into the family of God. Hence they always look back to that period as the brightest of their whole Christian life. It was indeed a glorious event, never to be forgotten; but surely their subsequent experience in Christian life must be far below God's standard, which is indicated by the wise man thus: "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." And thus by St. John: "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." In a healthy development of faith and purity, each succeeding year of our experience should be brighter than its predecessor.

How shall we be able to detect the error which thus trammels our faith, and defeats its grand purposes? I can give you, my dear reader, the theory of truth necessary for its detection, but God, the Holy Sanctifier, alone can give you light by which you may come to Jesus and have it removed. That He will gladly do, provided you consent to be holy without any "ifs" or "buts," or stipulations of your own.

Well, just at the altar of consecration, where you so often prayed, confessed, consecrated yourself, and renewed your covenant, stood your Almighty Saviour, waiting to impart salvation, free and full, to your aching heart; but at the moment of your entire submission, when you should have believed, what did you do? Why, you renewed your covenant, which directed your longing eyes away from Jesus to a future fulfilment of your vows; and it was implied in your mind, "Then I will be brought into the sweet communion with God I so much desired." You substituted a renewed covenant for present believing, nay, for a present Saviour; you arose and went away, and left Jesus "standing there at the door knocking" for admission. Instead of opening the door to admit Him in all the fulness of His saving power, without which it was impossible

for you to do better; with a pious vow in your mouth, you retired through a back way to your own dreary work, weak as before. How could you do any better when you missed connection with the source of light and life? If you wish to irrigate an orchard of fruit-trees, your beautiful ditches of good works will do no good unless you lift the flood-gate and turn on the water. At that important point of submission, to be sure you ignored the record of your past works, pronouncing them filthy rags, and threw them away; but what then did you do? You gravely promised the Lord some more of that sort, or, as you believed, an improved article. You told the Lord you would certainly do better the next time; but a fortnight's experience proved to you that they were of the same sort precisely, and not a bit better than the old stock. Then the old "accuser of the brethren," and the sisters as well, came in upon you like a flood, and you said to yourself, "Dear me, what shall I do? I thought I had gotten such a start in the way of holiness that I never would get back here again! But here I am in the same old formal track, subject to the same petty annoyances, and doubts and fears."

Oh, how glad I was when the Lord, in mercy, revealed to my heart this insidious practical error of "going about!" It is the more difficult of detection, because everything embraced in those vows and covenants is a good thing, or combination of good things. . . . The desire that led to the vows is all right, for God the Spirit wrought it in your heart; and vows and covenants are right, in so far as they are a means of bringing you to a perfect surrender to God, and a present acceptance of Jesus as your present perfect Saviour. But as you are running on the Gospel track, under the pressure of this heaven-wrought desire, into the depot of full salvation, look out there, look out! Just at the entrance of the depot the devil adjusts a very ingenious "switch," and, if you are not careful, you will be caught on this satanic "switch" and carried off the direct and only track leading into this glorious depot, on to the old circuitous Jewish track of "going about to establish your own righteousness," instead of "submitting yourselves to the righteousness of God." Surely you will never get in on that track!—*Sel.*

THE best way of increasing our money is not to lay it up, but to lay it out. Scattered seed increases; hoarded seed dies.