

Is one who has attained Christian perfection free from all temptation? No! Adam in Paradise was not free from it; Christ, in whom was no sin, was not free from it; and "it is enough that the disciple be as his Lord."

Then where is the great advantage of possessing it? 1st—God hath commanded it. "Be ye holy for I am holy, saith the Lord." "If ye love Me keep My commandments." 2nd—Our communion with God is much closer and sweeter. If a little religion makes a man happy, more will give him greater happiness. 3rd—A man will be a brighter and clearer light, and more will take knowledge of him that he has been with Jesus; and thus through his life he will be found pointing many more heavenward. 4th—He having, by his vow of consecration, promised to do all he can for the Master's cause, his faith in God is stronger, his love for the Kingdom of Christ and perishing sinners is increased, and his zeal being manifested, he will abound in works, and his labor will not be in vain in the Lord. 5th—Through those labors he will be found going from strength to strength: for as a man's muscular power is increased by proper exercise, so will his spiritual powers be enlarged by laboring in the Master's vineyard. 6th—But the greatest difference is, that while it is possible we may fall away, it is not nearly so probable that we shall. Before sanctification there were temptations from within and without: now they are all from without, the heart being clean. And as there is more danger of a fortress or city being taken when there are spies within, so is there more danger of our yielding through the deceitfulness of our spiritual foes, if they lurk within, ready to open the gates. Or it may be likened to a spark of fire, falling upon tinder or in water. The unsanctified heart is like tinder, and if a spark of temptation falls upon it, it requires our most strenuous efforts to keep it from bursting into a flame of sin; but if it fall upon a sanctified heart there is a No! and it expires, as fire dies when cast into the ocean.

J. E. W.