

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLE

DELIGHTED IN GOD'S WORD.

By Floyd W. Tomkins, S. T. D.

My devotional reading of the Bible does not profit me as much as I think it ought to... How can I acquire a real delight in Bible reading?

There are several difficulties which often, half unconsciously, block the way to profitable and comforting Bible reading. One is the doubt raised by current agitation regarding the Bible. Against this we must set our face as a flint. No blessing can come from God to one who doubts God. It is one of the struggles which men who read, and have read books, dealing with religious matters must pass through—this struggle of learning what men think and say, and yet keeping the faith of childhood clear and strong. We must go to the Bible, believing that it is God's Book, a message from him to us, if we would receive help.

Another difficulty is that we read too much at a time. "Devotional use of the Bible," and "study of the Bible" are two distinct things, employing different faculties of our nature. When I go to the Bible for comfort or guidance, a short passage, perhaps, only a verse or half a verse, followed by meditation on what is read, will give me more help than reading a whole chapter. It is so full of divine truth that we cannot digest much at a time. There is a great deal of spiritual indigestion amongst Christians.

And yet a third source of difficulty is not carrying the message with us through the day. To read, and to forget, is of no benefit. To read, and to remember and use what is read, is always profitable. A full desire for Bible reading comes in response to prayer and faith and action. Before I read let me close my eyes while I hold the dear Book in my hands and pray. "Dear Lord, give me a message from Thy Word which will help me." Then let me expect and look for help. And then let me keep the help and dwell upon it. It is good, in this regard, often to take some special line of reading. The words of Jesus, the promises of God, the prayers of the Bible, the words from the Cross—such special selections often satisfy when random reading fails. And then when we are in difficulty of any kind, if we will only go to the good Book for help, not only will we never fail to receive it, but our love for this Guide which God has given will increase. We are too much afraid in these days, of superstition and religious idolatry. The reaction from the credulity of the middle ages has left us cold and unimpassioned. Do not let us be afraid of loving and trusting the Bible. It is God's Word, then it must be a rich treasure of divine power resting in our very hands; a veritable gift from God.—

GIVING OVER THE KEYS.

There is only one safe custodian of our lives. We cannot divide ownership of ourselves with Jesus Christ. He must have all the keys, or he can use none. It is futile to enter upon his service with any chambers of our being locked against him. It means failure to begin a day's work with our plans for that day so fixed that we will not listen to the change which his plans for us may demand. Anything short of entire surrender to him means defeat. Unconditional surrender means victory. Only when the keys are all in the Saviour's keeping is the fortress safe against the enemy. And the wonder is, why we should hesitate to trust him with all. For there is no joy in life that equals that which comes from the victory of self-surrender.— S. S. Times.

WHEN TO BE DOGMATIC.

There are not two sides to every question. The questions for example, that the Devil suggests to you, are not open for discussion. All he wants is that you shall permit a little discussion of them. Campbell Morgan, writing in "A Message to New Converts," says of this: Have one policy with regard to the Devil. Don't argue with him; hit him. If you begin to parley, he is considerably older than you are; his experience is very varied; he will win." Any other advice is from the past-master in argument himself, and is not to be listened to.

HE REMEMBERED HIS PROMISE.

A twelve-year-old boy was invited on a camping trip, says an exchange. His timid mother gave permission on the condition that he would not get into a canoe while away, as she was afraid of it upsetting.

The boy promised, though reluctantly. At the end of ten days came the following letter:

Dear Mother,—I'm having the best kind of a time; and I don't mind a bit about the canoe. Yesterday was the only day I really wanted to try one, for we were going across a little lake to another camp. But they've been teaching me how to swim and Ned said he and I could swim across and let the other four take the two canoes; and so we did and swam back again, too. Wasn't that great? And I knew you'd be pleased to think I remembered my promise. Your affectionate son,

GEORGE.

The great difficulty with thousands in the present day is not that Christianity has been found wanting, but that it has never been seriously tried.—Canon Liddn.

LITTLE JAPS.

Here is a thing which every visitor to Japan at once notices—their love for children.

An American woman who became acquainted with a Japanese mother noticed that she allowed her little children to ramble through the streets at will, and one day spoke of it.

"Why," said the Japanese lady, "what harm can come of it? Our children never quarrel, and no grown person would harm a child."

"But," said the American lady, "the child might get lost."

"That would make no trouble," was the smiling reply. At once she showed how in little children's apparel there were inserted cards and explaining that should they stray, any person finding them will first give them a good meal and then bring them home.— Christian Guardian.

A PRECIOUS HERB.

Two little German girls, Brigitte and Wallburg, were on their way to town, and each carried a heavy basket of fruit on her head.

Brigitte murmured and sighed constantly; Wallburg only laughed and joked.

Brigitte said, "What makes you laugh so? Your basket is quite as heavy as mine, and you are no stronger than I am."

Wallburg answered, "I have a precious little herb on my load, which makes me hardly feel it at all. Put some of it on your load as well."

"Oh," cried Brigitte, "it must indeed be a precious little herb! I should like to lighten my load with it; so tell me at once what it is called."

Wallburg replied, "The precious little herb that makes all burdens light is called 'patience.'"

A LITTLE LIFE SAVER.

Baby's Own Tablets have saved many a precious little life. They are the best medicine in the world for all stomach and bowel troubles, simple fevers and teething troubles and they contain not one particle of opiate or harmful drug. Mrs. Elbridge Lowe, Sheet Harbor, N.S., says: "My baby was always sickly until I began giving him Baby's own Tablets, but they have changed him into a fine, big, healthy child. I am never without the Tablets in the house." The Tablets can be given with perfect safety to a new born babe, and are good through every stage of childhood. If you do not find the Tablets at your medicine dealers, send 25 cents to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and get a box by mail post paid.