

up the world spontaneously, naturally, and joyfully.

In this simple acceptance of Christ lies the whole secret of renouncing the world. Before accepting Christ do not try to give up anything. Just as you are at this moment give yourself up to Him. Upon this simple condition He will take you to Himself and do for you and in you and through you the great work of casting away from you the world. Do not even let your thoughts dwell on the things you will lose when you win Christ. Rather think on what you gain in Him,—freedom from sin's galling yoke, peace and rest in the favor of God, a secret well of pleasure in communion with God, a calm and serene temper formed by His indwelling spirit, a sense of true dignity in being the adopted child of God, a realization of your large inheritance as an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ, and a hope that maketh not ashamed, but that, springing from your acceptance of Christ, expands into the brightness and effulgence of eternal glory. Think on these things. Fill your mind with them. Look unto Jesus till his beauty fills the vision of your soul and your heart desires Him, till the evidences of His trustworthiness awaken faith in you and faith carries you wholly over to Him. When you are in faith resting on Him, you will find it no sacrifice, but a joy, to give up anything and everything that you need to surrender. You will then count all things loss for Christ. The spell of the world over your soul will be broken. It will lose its fascination, and as your life is taken apart with Christ it will retire from you, and as it goes from you the loss of it will be counted a great gain.

In the experience of your new life you may for a time be troubled as to your relation to the world. Questions will arise in your heart as to society—how far and how frequently you are to mingle with men in social gatherings. You will be anxious as to how far you may go with the world in your recreations and amusements. You will need to face habits and customs, and decide whether they are to be continued or given up. There is clear and simple guiding for you in all such matters. *To you as a Christian, the world is whatever comes between you and Christ.* Whatever hinders your abiding in Him, your communion with Him, your service for Him, is of the world, and from such a world you must withdraw. And this world includes, of course, all things that are directly and in their nature sinful. It is evident that your relation to such things must be that of resistance and stern nonconformity. But the world that comes between you and Christ also

includes things that are in themselves sinful, but for you not expedient. In your Christian life there are many such things, and for your own sake or for the sake of others you will withdraw from these. The rule by which you are to decide such questions is exceedingly simple. If you are a true Christian, if you have really and truly committed your life to Christ and to His keeping, the best advice that can be given you is to go into the world as far and as long as you prayerfully can. If your heart is filled with love to Christ, and a desire to grow in Him and to glorify Him, He will guide you where to go and what to do, and your only wise course is to follow Him.

Do not let any one hinder you with rules that are unreal to you. *Be natural in your spiritual life*, that is, let Christ rule in you, and rule over you, so that the outcome of His blessed dominion is a life that gravitates towards Himself, and that instinctively turns away from everything that hinders your life in Him. Be sure of this, and all your relations to the world will settle themselves. *And be spiritual in your natural life*, that is, let Christ keep you, on all days of the week and in all your occupations, under His eye and in the leading of His gracious hand, so that you may be at all times and everywhere marked as His disciple. Be sure of this, and you will find yourself safe from all compromise with the world. If your heart is in the world, it will do you no good, but harm, to withdraw your life from it. If your heart is fully and wholly with Christ, He will guide you in a safe path, and keep you through a consenting obedient will from all entanglement with what is sinful and inexpedient.

As your life is enriched and enlarged by Him; and as He opens up to you the treasures of His truth and the resources of His grace, as you come to know the fulness and strength of the character which He forms in you and ripens; as you come nearer and nearer to Him in holiness and love, the ministry of the world will become less and less to you, and you will see yourself a stranger in it—a mere pilgrim passing through it.

Give yourself wholly unto Christ and abide in Him, and the time will soon come when you will not be troubled as to how many of the things of the world are given you to enjoy, for you will feel how few of them you need, and how little you care for any of them. When you are wholly given up to Christ you will find your soul wholly satisfied with Him, and the "bread enough and to spare" of your Father's house will be all-sufficing to you. And when you are thus satisfied, the world will