

## Fragments.

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**DESCENDING STEPS.**—Bibles read without prayer; sermons heard without prayer; marriages contracted without prayer; journeys undertaken without prayer; residences chosen without prayer; friendships formed without prayer; the daily act of private prayer hurried over, or gone through without heart; these are the kind of downward steps by which many a Christian descends, to a condition of spiritual palsy, or reaches the point where God allows him to have a tremendous fall.—*Rev. C. Ryle.*

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**LIFE A BOOK.**—Said a distinguished American statesman to a debating club of young men, "Life is a book of which we can have but one edition. As it is first prepared it must stand forever. Let each day's actions, as they add another page to the indestructible volume, be such as that we shall be willing to have an assembled world read it."

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"Think of the *blood* of Jesus, and plead it; of the *yoke* of Jesus, and wear it; of the *example* of Jesus, and follow it; of the *love* of Jesus, and never be contented to live another day without feeling it."

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The greatest sinner who trusts only in Christ's blood will assuredly be saved. The best man in the world who trusts in his own goodness will be lost. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (1 Tim. i. 15.)

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**IMPROVE THE TIME.**—The lights of heaven do not shine for themselves, nor for the world of spirits, who need them not; but for man—for our pleasure and advantage. How ungrateful and inexcusable, then, are we, if when God has set up these lights for us to work by, we sleep or play, or in a manner trifle away the precious moments given us, and thus burn our Master's candles, but mind not our Master's work.

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"How dangerous to defer those momentous reformations which conscience is solemnly preaching to the heart! If they are neglected the difficulty and indisposition are increasing every month. The mind is receding degree after degree from the warm and hopeful zone; till, at last, it will enter the *artic* circle, and become fixed in relentless and eternal ice."—*Foster.*

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Every avenue of comfort and happiness is sometimes stopped in the believer's mind, that he may be brought to know more deeply this truth—"All my springs are in thee."

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Trouble looks more terrible in the distance than when it is upon us. Clouds are never so black when near as they seem when far away.—*German of Zschokke.*

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No man can go to heaven when he dies, who has not sent his heart thither while he lives. Our greatest hopes should be beyond the grave.

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Let us aim in every sermon to please God, and profit our people; to do them good, rather than gain applause.—*Mason.*

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No man is so insignificant as to be sure his example can do no hurt.—*Lord Clarendon.*

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Happiness is a perfume that one cannot shed over another without a few drops falling on one's self.