

promise? "Souls" is rendered in the margin, "lives"; and the thought of winning one's life, is of accomplishing the highest end of life, and of realizing its highest possibility of power and of peace. Regarded in this light, how sweet is the promise for those who are compelled to live in this impetuous, harassing generation! By patience, we shall win our lives! Impatience in our work; the chafing of the spirit against providential restrictions; the wild haste to be rich; the intolerant and consuming ambition, which to satisfy itself will crush a path over the rights of others,—these are characteristic types of world-life to be seen around us every day. But the servant of the Lord must not, will not abandon himself to this impatient, selfish strife. He will maintain the bright example of the patient Jesus. He will discern by the light of the Holy Spirit's teaching that the highest end of our life on earth cannot be won by the selfish and the impatient; he will receive the strength to remember that impatience is waste and loss, the strength to live in the hourly atmosphere of that blessed prayer for every busy and every earnest life.—*Chas. Cuthbert Hall.*

#### Tribulation Worketh Patience.

We have all known Christian sufferers who have grown into rare, sweet beauty, as they have suffered. They have lost their earthliness and have learned heavenliness. Pride has given way to humility. Impatience has become sweet patience. The harsh music has grown soft and gentle. The rough marble has taken the shape of graceful beauty. It is true, as a rule, that the noblest, richest, purest, most beautiful lives in this world have been lives of suffering. There are elements of loveliness in the depths of every life which only the fires of pain can bring out. The photographer carries his picture into a darkened room to develop it. God often takes His children into the chamber of pain and draws the curtains, while He there brings out the features of His own image, which before had been only dim and shadowy outlines.

But our lesson is not yet complete. Not all afflictions make people better. Not all who suffer are made thereby more meet for heaven. Tribulation does not always work patience. We have all seen people suffering who only became more impatient, irritable, ill-tempered, selfish, and cold as they suffered. . . . In no experience of life have most persons more need of wise friendship and firm, loving guidance than in their times of trouble.—*Life's Byways and Waysides.*

#### God's Covenant.

May 14.—God's covenant and ours. Ps. 105: 1-10.

(A Christian Endeavor pledge meeting.)

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: With Abraham Gen. 15: 1-21. Tuesday: With Moses, Ex. 6: 1-18. Wednesday: With David, 2 Sam. 7: 1-29. Thursday: If we will obey, Ex. 19: 1-8. Friday: If ye abide in me, John 15: 7-10. Saturday: The eternal covenant, Heb. 8: 6-13; 13: 20-21.

#### David's Experience.

David was a man of very varied experience. From boyhood to old age his life was replete with interesting, often exciting, incident and adventure. How the modern boy must envy the shepherd lad of old, fighting not only bears and lions, but giants! Ah, it was in those youthful days that David learned the lesson not of self-reliance, but of God-reliance. I believe David was a pledged Junior. I am sure his good old father Jesse had often pledged him to the Lord in prayer; and I feel equally sure that the

boy himself must have made covenant with God so soon as he was old enough to realize his personal responsibility. Perhaps it was one of those calm eastern nights, when, stretched out upon the green grass beneath the starlit sky, the thoughtful lad mused upon the greatness of Israel's God. Then he realized that the great life was the life that God most used, and in the holy stillness of the night made fullest dedication of himself in all his youthful purity and strength. Certain it was that such purpose dominated all his after life, and won for him the divinely given tribute that he was a man "after God's own heart."

God's man can successfully fight giants. That is one of the lessons we learn from David's experience. But he must be wholly God's man. There must be none of Saul's armor to hamper and impede. He must be a pledged man, a man fully yielded; and to such, God becomes a pledged God; He gives Himself and all that He is without reserve. This is the secret strength of consecration. It lies not alone in the fact that we become wholly God's, but more deeply in the blessed truth that He becomes wholly ours. In the giant-fighting that must form a portion of every true man's life, what grander thought than this, that the might of Omnipotence is behind him who goes to battle, "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength"? A life pledged to God means that God's honor is pledged to the success of that life. In the fulfillment of its divine destiny, the eternal and infinite resources of the Almighty are always at its disposal. With the failure of a yielded life God fails.

David's experience with God bears unbroken testimony to this truth, and the fact that David failed and fell is only confirmation of the strongest kind. So long as he relied on God for the fulfillment of his needs and desires all went well. As he yielded all to God, God gave back to him in lavish abundance of His wealth. But the time came when David allowed himself to cherish an unyielded desire; on this thing he dissolved partnership with God, a partnership hitherto so profitable, and sought the accomplishment of his own end in his own way. God usually allows a man to mind his own business if he wants to; but if he be a child of God, sooner or later he discovers his mistake, and realizing that where ever there has been failure it has been in that which he has undertaken to do by himself, he lets God into all his councils and gives Him full control. Thus it was with David after his experience in trying to gain for himself another man's wife; an experience that was learned in much of bitterness, but which found sweet fruitage in a closer fellowship with God.

David's experience has this added value for us, that it was gained under so many differing conditions and such various environment. From the sheepfold to the King's palace; fugitive outlaw and beloved king, he ran the gamut of life's music in both minor and major keys. We no doubt have sometimes wondered if the circumstances of our life were but changed, if it would not be easier to lead the kind of life God wants us to live; but David's story teaches us that the only really hard circumstances in life are those we make for ourselves, and that whether it be in palace-hall or peasant's hut the God-life can only be lived by the man who is wholly yielded to God. Where God has placed us is the best, the easiest place for such a life. The Christian Endeavorer who pledges himself to Jesus