

Hints for Christian Workers.

"ENLARGE, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine;
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a love like thine;
And lead them to thy open side,
The sheep for whom their shepherd died."

The Night Cometh.—"The night cometh when no man can work." Remember this, O ministers, as you preach; O teachers, as you play your pupils with the truth. Remember this, O rich men who feel generally that you should do good, but put it off. Remember this, O ye men and women unready to die, dreaming perhaps that some day you can begin and work out a righteousness for yourselves. The night cometh. No working there, no second probation. It is, as to this life, "Now or never."—*Dr. John Hall.*

The Great Need.—What is the great need of the soul-winner? A knowledge of the Word? Yes, for how shall he be able to tell others what he does not know himself. A tactful manner? Certainly, for even a well-meant and needed blow, dealt at the wrong time and place, will work disaster. But the great need of all, the one which has to do, not with special cases, but with every case? Love for the lost: supply that need, and all other needs will be, in a large measure, supplied. Love touches men in every condition. It is an old saying that "not every man has a head, but every man has a heart." This does not mean that heads are to be left out of the question, but that the heart is, after all, the strategic point.—*Lookout.*

Why Do We Hesitate?—A strange reluctance comes over many when they try to talk about the soul and its relation to God. It is felt alike by the converted and unconverted persons. Very often the gay girl whose heart is running over with fun and mirth and whose speech sparkles with wit and humor has, deep in her consciousness, the feeling that she is unsatisfied, that she wants something better, purer and higher. She wishes that the Christian woman who is talking with her would ask her a question, would give her a hint, would lead the conversation to the subject of personal religion. The other has no thought of the kind. She has even a faint, undefinable dread that any effort on her part would be received coldly, or made occasion of ridicule. So the opportunity passes. The souls have been within speaking distance, but have failed to communicate with each other. Each goes on its way. The friend of Christ who might have won a soul to him, has been silent, afraid, ashamed. What wonder if to that too faithless friend there comes the sad experience that the Beloved has withdrawn himself and is gone; that seeking the Spirit, finds him not, and calling, there

returns no answer! Can there be perfect serenity and the full sense of communion with God to one who refuses or neglects so important a duty?—*Margaret E. Sangster.*

Give God Your Best Service.—Are you trying to take up the Lord's work with unconsecrated hearts and hands? Before you can save others you yourself must be strong in the Lord. When you realize the awful condition of the unsaved without Christ, when you remember your own sad sphere before you found Jesus, then will you not be inspired to work with a zeal for the salvation of the unsaved? Will you not start upon a new career, and win at least one soul each year for the Saviour? How rapidly then will the world be won and God's kingdom come! Have you ever experienced the joy that fills the heart when you have brought a lost one to Jesus? If not, then the richest mine of human happiness lies unexplored in your heart. Then, inactive member, awake to an earnest ambition, live a life of whole-hearted self-surrender to Christ's way of living, thinking, working. Then burden your heart for souls. Never be satisfied until you have given God your best service, for it is the least He will accept. With the poet let us strive to pray:

"Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet;
Oh, strengthen me, that while I stand
Firm on the rock, and strong in Thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
To wrestlers with the troubled sea."

—*Rev. W. P. West.*

Ready for Opportunity.—An opportunity is nothing to the man who is unready to use it. As far as it is likely to affect his welfare it might as well not exist. While he is trying to get ready, at the last moment, to take advantage of it he discovers that it has vanished out of sight. What makes the matter more serious is the fact that it never returns. Some other opportunity of a similar character may present itself, but the lost one is lost forever. There is no power on earth to bring it back. This general truth is especially significant in as far as it concerns the opportunities of religion. He who neglects to make his peace with God while he can, has no ground for hoping that some strange magic will hereafter reverse the fixed laws of the moral universe, and enable him to recover the chance which he despised and trampled underfoot. Life is probation. Probation determines character. Character is destiny.—*Nashville Ch. Ad.*

Prevailing Prayer.—Before the gracious work at pentecost was experienced the disciples and other believers—men and women—had been in constant prayer for many days. The great Wes-

leyan revival had its origin in a praying circle. Great was the awakening at Shotts, in Scotland when, under the preaching of one open-air sermon, on Monday, June 21, 1638, about 500 professed conversion. Where lay the source of power? The previous night was spent in prayer by most of the Christians in that place. A hundred years later, at Enfield, Mass., similar power was experienced under the sermon of President Edwards, on "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." During the delivery of that sermon strong men seized the pillars of the church as if to prevent their feet sliding into hell. Where lay the power of that memorable sermon? Many of the godly people of Enfield, distressed on account of the unsaved around them, spent the entire preceding night in prayer. The great revivals in 1857 and 1858 were the outcome of prevailing prayer. The acknowledged birthplace of the Irish revival was in a little country school-house at Tannybrake, county of Antrim, where four young men met for prayer nightly, for months, until the blessing came and extended far and wide. During 1859 about 10,000 members were added to the churches in Ireland, and the invariable testimony is, that wherever a revival was experienced it had been preceded by earnest, importunate prayer. Similar testimony is given concerning the revivals in Scotland and in Wales. Speaking from vast experience in revivals, Finney and Knapp have left their testimony to the place and power of prayer. Finney says: "Prayer is an essential line in the chain of causes that lead to a revival, as much as truth is."—*Rev. John R. Davies.*

Working With Your Pastor.—I cannot speak of the value of your pastor in his personal touch on your life. If I should stop to-day and open my heart, that is so full of the sorrows of other people who have buried them there (and they are safe), and count the lives that have been touched here and there and saved, it would be committing the sin of self-glory; and I can say this for most pastors. Let me tell you what they want. Go to them and say something like this: "I have been astonished at what I find myself able to do; for several weeks I have done, day and night, just what the evangelist has asked me to do; in order to be obedient I have carried my meals to the service, so as to be in my place. I have been as bold as a lion in talking to people. I have never done this before. If you will forgive me I will be the same to you that I have been to the evangelist—and more." Then I can tell you what he will do. His eyes will be full; he may blurt out a "Thank you"; but when he gets alone in his study he will be a boy again, and his heart and eyes will overflow in gratitude to God that he must not in the future do only his work, but yours also. If this shall be the result of the revival it will be worth more than a few thousand new Christians; it will mean many thousands more, and a new type of spiritual life in all the churches. And in this direction the work of the evangelist will have been greater than he can ever measure.—*Rev. W. H. Geistdoerfer.*