

One touching incident in the inauguration ceremonies of President Cleveland at Washington a few days ago was that in taking the oath of office, he used the pocket bible that he inherited from his mother. It is spoken of as a small, gilt edged, morocco covered, well worn, volume. The incident reminds one of the touching scene of four years ago when President Garfield after taking the oath of office that made him the ruler of fifty millions of people and of one of the mightiest nations of the earth, turned round and kissed first his aged mother, and then his wife, the little act showing the true greatness of the man. Cleveland, amid the anxieties and excitements of the time and in the flush of victory, forgets not his sainted mother and her gift and regards the event as honoured by the presence of that book. Little did she think that it would be put to such a use. But her aim and prayer for him was not lowlier or less important. It was that he should be fitted for a loftier throne for a more exalted honor.

Few bibles given by loving mothers have attained such celebrity on earth but over many a copy of the precious book given by a mother to her son, wet with a mother's tears, accompanied and followed by a mother's prayers, has been taken the oath of allegiance to the Saviour, as the heart was surrendered to Him; and the prayed-for child made a king and priest unto God and to Christ: made heir to a crown that shall never fade.

COMING TO CHRIST. HOW:

He says, "Come unto Me;" but remember that you are to do the coming. Your faith must act in two ways or processes, *prayer and practice*. As Jesus is not here in physical form you can only approach him in prayer. They that seek shall find. Honestly, humbly, fervently seek from Him the forgiveness of your sins. Ask Him to cleanse your foul sin-polluted heart, bringing to Him this promise, "My blood cleanseth from all sin." Invite Him into your heart to dwell there; and do it with this assurance, that as many as receive Him, to

to them He gives the right to become children of God. The sincerity of your prayer must be tested by your own conduct. Unless you do your part towards securing an answer to your petitions you may be sure that they never will be answered. It is a farce, an impious mockery, to ask the Lord Jesus to make you what you refuse to be. If it is not in your power to bring the blessing of eternal life it is certainly in your power to keep it away.

Then put your prayers, if we may use such an expression, into *practice*. Do what Jesus bids you, and begin to do it at once. Pluck out the right eye of some favorite sin; cut off the right hand of evil habit. Jesus says explicitly, "No man can serve two masters," and as you are already serving sin you must stop that service before the other can begin. I believe with Henry Drummond, in his volume on "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," that "whatever the conscious hour of the new birth may it is probably defined by the first real victory over sin." Victories only come to those who fight for them. Fight the first sin to which you are tempted. Christ's very first preaching was "Repent!" and repentance means both sorrow for sin and abandonment of it.

Observe also how Christ emphasizes *obedience* in the very act of coming to Him. He says, "Learn of Me;" and how does a child learn to talk but by imitating the words of father or mother, or learn to walk but by using its limbs? Begin to obey Christ in the very first thing that comes to your hands. Clinch the good intention by putting it into practice. The chief benefit of "rising for prayer" commonly is that it is an outward step to acknowledge and confirm an inward feeling. This demand of Christ for prompt, immediate obedience appears also in the words, "Take my yoke upon you." The old yoke of selfishness, or ambition, or money greed, or sensual appetite, that made a beast of burden of you, must go off. His yoke is "easy" because it does not gail; His burthen is "light" because He imparts a glorious strength to bear it. But the yoke must be cheerfully accepted; and the very first prayer must be, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler*

A boy was asked what meekness is. He thought a moment and said 'Meekness' gives a smooth answer to rough questions.