

*Epworth League*: "Taking Christ as my example and trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit, I promise that I will endeavor to learn and do my heavenly Father's will."

*Christian Endeavor*: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do."

These clauses form the basis of all that follows in each pledge, and are really the ground-work in every Christian life, since the will of God is the test of Christian duty. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" is the constant cry of every true Christian. His experience: "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"; and his testimony: "For me to live is for Christ to live." A vow of complete consecration to God is unconditionally required of every real Christian. It is not a matter of mere choice, but a duty that ought to be a delight. Unreserved loyalty and sworn allegiance to God's will and purpose is rightly demanded of all who profess to be subjects of His kingdom. Refusal of fealty to Him and His laws is treason against the government of Heaven. Such a vow to God is eternal. If to enter into a covenant with God be a duty, to withdraw from it without sin is an impossibility; both duty and pledge are binding forever. This clause of the pledge is a specific acknowledgment of our required service to God. It is a formal assumption of the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven," as a principle and motive of life. It puts our life in harmony with the desire and purpose of Christ. It makes visible and real what is otherwise hazy and intangible. Christianity has been largely a religion of theological dogmas, a system of abstract definitions, a matter of faith and feeling. What idea of the character of God is formed from such an intangible personality as the "Unseen Deity"? What conception of Christian life can be formed from a formal statement of: justification, regeneration, sanctification, consecration, holiness, etc.? The words of the pledge, as above quoted, present a concrete conception of God and a true idea of our Christian duty. We are made to "look up" to Him who was at once the manifestation of the character of the unseen God, and the embodiment of an ideal human life.