
HABITUAL TEMPER OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

that He cares for me, that He does not afflict willingly, that every moment and every trifle of my history are enfolded in His ceaseless providence, that there is a purpose of love in all my life which is working out in me and for me a destiny which shall be worthy of His infinite wisdom and unfathomable grace. It is the profound conviction of these great facts of revelation that can alone enable us "in everything to give thanks."

Let it not be supposed, however, that the fulfilment of these injunctions is possible apart from the life of which they are the expression. It is not the result of effort "to rejoice evermore—to pray without ceasing—in everything to give thanks." You may try with the utmost striving to perform either one, and you will discover that the ability lies deeper than mere desire or resolution. They are the fruit of the regenerate heart. The life of God must flow through your soul. You must learn to say, "I live, nevertheless not I, but Christ liveth in me." This supernatural quality of being must have a supernatural inspiration. The joy of the Lord must be your strength if the strength of the Lord is to be your joy. The Almighty and All-Helpful One must be a perpetual reality to faith if prayer is to be a perpetual delight. The God of providence must be the very synonym for purposeful love if you are "in everything to give thanks." You