

risks of battle, recognized in him a master spirit not to be daunted by any danger and with resources for any emergency. He it was who breathed into their hearts new hope when they were ready to despair.

If we look for the secret of Paul's unquestioned supremacy we shall find it partly in his steadfast faith. While the hearts of his companions were shaken by a tempest of fears and forebodings fiercer than the storm without, he remained unmoved, like a rock against which the waves dash themselves in powerless rage. His confidence in God lifted him above the terrors that dismayed others, giving him the steady nerve and the fearless mien which give a man power amongst his fellows.

Paul's influence was due also to his resourcefulness. He was a practical man. There was in him no trace of that spurious faith which folds its hands and makes no effort to secure the blessings for which it prays. He firmly believed that God would save the passengers and crew of the storm-tossed vessel, but he saw at the same time, how necessary it was for all to keep up their strength by taking sufficient food, and for the sailors to use all their seamanship. The man to whom others look for guidance is the one who has some wise plan to propose in trying situations.

Nor was this all. Paul was not only a man of faith and resourcefulness. He possessed, as well, that cheerful courage for which the best name is pluck. His brave and buoyant spirit resisted the depressing influences of hardships and danger, as the aeronaut with his balloon overcomes the force of gravitation and navigates the air. This bright hopefulness marked Paul as the right man to rouse his despairing shipmates to renewed exertions which were at last crowned with success.

It is not given to all of us to be leaders in some great work or important crisis. But the qualities which fitted Paul for leadership can be cultivated, and our possession of them will make us helpful to others. There is no position in life, however humble, which does not furnish opportunities for developing those traits of character that make a hero.

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