

SOME SEED THOUGHTS.

Bring up out of the secret place of your soul your cardinal wish, and that wish becomes the focus of every other wish. His cardinal wish tells the story of every man's character. Two women entered into the presence of Oriental monarchs. To each it was said: "What is thy petition?" The one—Esther—pleaded for the lives of her countrymen. The other—Salome—asks Herod for John the Baptist's head on a charger. The inmost wish of each rushed out, and behold, how different a character? For centuries Esther has been upon the pedestal of greatness, while Salome has been pilloried in the world's condemnation.

What is needed today is not an emphasis upon tradition or upon orthodoxy, but the clear and simple manifestation of God's Spirit in our own lives. These are days of criticism, and criticism is good; but there is one subject of criticism I cannot become interested in, namely, as to whether the miracles of the Bible are credible or not. If a physician cannot diagnose my child's case correctly, I care nothing for his story of his reputation twenty years ago. If he can bring my child through, I take for granted all the past. The world asks whether the Spirit of God is a vital factor in our lives today. Is he transfiguring and transforming our lives?

Gehazi and Elijah looked on the self-same scene. The one thought he was surrounded by adversaries, and cried, "What shall we do?" The other saw the mountains filled with the chariots and horsemen of the Lord of Hosts. The panic of Gehazi! The poise of Elijah! Depend upon it, our days will be full of panics if we have not that clearer vision of faith, the eyesight of the soul.—Dr. Woelfkin.

REMEMBER!

It is well for the young man who has planned for the future by duplicity and falsehood to parents to sit down and examine the specifications of his tower anew and count the cost once more, and see if he have sufficient to finish it, and what it will be worth to him when finished. Who will go his security, or who will guarantee that the end will be worth while? If he builds for Satan or for self he may be sure that Christ will not go on his bond. He gives no countenance to a structure of that sort. The builder of such a life takes a great responsibility. He is sure to lose all that he has put into it. He is building in the track of the cyclone, in the path of the avalanche and neither earth nor heaven can give him any guarantee of safety. Let the young man listen to the voice of Wisdom: "Keep the commandment of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; bind them continually upon thy heart; tie them about thy neck. When thou walkest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall watch over thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

"Work for some good, be it ever so slowly; Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly; Labor! all labor is noble and holy; Let thy good deeds be a prayer to thy God."

PRAYER.

O Lord our God, Father of all men, but especially of those who confess Jesus as Lord and we believe that thou hast raised him from the dead, make real to us, we pray thee, our sonship and the glory of our inheritance in thee; to the end that we may both rejoice in our own blessedness as children of God, and by word and deed commend to our friends and to the world the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Amen.—Selected.

GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN
YOU.

A story is told of a monastery in Austria noted for its gifts to the poor. It grew rich and prosperous. Then the monks began to hoard the money, and the monastery grew poor. One day a disguised saint passed by and said to the monks: "Let me tell you why you are so poor. Once you had two brothers, named Date and Dabitur. You thrust out Date, and Dabitur, being lonely, left of his own accord." The monks protested, saying they never had had such inmates. "Have you forgotten your Latin?" asked the saint. "Date means give; Dabitur, it shall be given to you. When Date becomes an inmate again, Dabitur will return." Even so. In all matters pertaining to the Christian life, the rule is, and the measurement is, "Give and it shall be given to you." He who gives not to others the help of a noble and beautiful spirituality, a generous appreciation, and material aid, need not be surprised if there is taken from him himself what little he but seemeth to have.

COME NOW.

By Geo. W. Armstrong.

Come now, accept the great offer,
The offer of pardon from God;
He kindly delayeth His vengeance
Withholding His frown and His rod.
Come now, God wills your redemption,
Let your will and His be as one;
Submit to His offer of mercy,—
Of mercy through Christ His dear Son.

Chorus: Come now, Come now, despise not
the offer of grace;
Come now, Come now, and seek
the Redeemer's sweet face.

Come now, step into Salvation,
For this is the reason Christ came;
For Jesus is waiting to give you,
Deliverance from sin and from shame.
Come now, accept the great offer,
Let all your rebellion now cease;
Take God at His word and believe Him,
Gain purity, pardon and peace.

Chorus: Come now, etc.

Come now, accept the great offer,
Let grace do its work in your soul;
Be absolved from the sin of transgression,
Come now, God urges, entreats you,
He knows your desires and your needs;
His voice and His heart are most tender,
To-day God most graciously pleads.

Chorus: Come now, etc.

DO NOT THINK OF TEMPTATIONS.

"Do not talk too much of your temptation and do not think of it too much," is Edward Everett Hale's shrewd counsel. What is kept out of our thoughts and talk cannot easily get into our lives. We must set our thoughts to work, and get them too busy in other directions to leave any of them hanging round Temptation Corner.

DAILY READINGS.

M., Aug. 21 Making good wives. Prov. 31: 10-12.
T., Aug. 22 The ideal housewife. Prov. 31: 13-27.
W., Aug. 23 The Christian mother. Prov. 31: 28-31.
T., Aug. 24 A woman's need of Christ. John 4: 16-26.
F., Aug. 25 A converted woman. John 4: 28, 29, 39-42.
S., Aug. 26 A woman's devotion. John 20: 11-18.
Sun., Aug. 27. Topic—Mission work among women. Acts 16: 13-18; Tit. 2: 3-5. (Home and foreign fields.)

The Church of God is a divine family, and it should be the aim of every member to maintain the honor and reputation of every other member of this family.

Unhappiness is the hunger to get. True happiness is the hunger to give.

WOMAN'S WORK FOR WOMEN.

Some Bible Hints.

Paul found Lydia by the river, but the chief difficulty of missionaries in the Orient is to get at the women, secluded as they are in harems; and this seclusion dwarfs their minds as much as it confines their bodies (Acts 16:13).

The winning of the women means the winning of the children, the servants, and often the men, so that work for women is especially important (Acts 16:15).

In pagan superstitions the women are the soul of conservatism, and often bitterly oppose any change on the part of the men. They must be won first (Acts 16:16).

Women have shone everywhere on the mission fields, and especially in the schools, where they have been indeed "teachers of good things" (Titus 2:3).

Mission Notes Concerning Women.

A Christian woman went to work in a negro settlement in the Indian Territory appropriately named Sodom, so vile was it. In less than a year the men had built a school house and church, and now the place is called, appropriately, "Pleasant Grove."

A Southern negro woman once said that before she learned to live by her Bible her religion was like a fire of shavings, but now it was like solid live-oak coals.

In heathen lands the suffering caused woman by ignorance and superstition of the native doctors is unequalled among the world's tortures, and the woman medical missionary wins the endless gratitude of the women whom she frees from these agonies.

Dr. Clara Swain was the first woman medical missionary. She went to North India in January, 1870.

When the first hospital for women was opened in India, one of the patients asked, "May I not come here and stay a while every year even if I am not sick?"

When the medical missionary attended in her severe illness the wife of the Chinese prime minister, Li Hung Chang, the great man's influence was won for missions.

A mission school teacher in a Mormon village was tormented by a rabble of boys who stoned the schoolhouse, and tried to drive her out of town; but one day she called in the leader and got him to help her to put up a fallen stove-pipe, so winning him that he became one of the most successful pastors in Utah.

A mission teacher in New Mexico was thwarted at every turn by a Catholic priest, but she ministered to the sick during a terrible scourge of diphtheria and smallpox, and afterwards all doors were open to her.

To Think About.

What am I doing to "help these women"?

How much do I really know about women missionaries?

Is there a woman's missionary society in my own church?

The Pastor's Leadership.

There is no other appropriate leadership, and generally, if the pastor does not lead, the society has no leader.

The pastor is the head of the society as of all other parts of the church work. If the president stands as the nominal head, it is only for the purposes of training.

The meetings of the executive committee give the pastor his best opportunity to guide the society's affairs thoroughly and quietly. It would be well if those meetings were held at his house, and monthly.

As one of the chief purposes of the society is to train the members to independent, originating work for Christ, the pastor's guidance should be unobtrusive, and exerted only when necessary.

The best thing a pastor can do for his Endeavorers is to set each one of them to work.