

individual Christians, and all who, conscious of their sins, feel the need of forgiveness, must wrestle with God if they would obtain the blessings which they desire. They must seek in sincere, down-right earnestness, and not quit pleading until the glad response is heard: "Great is thy faith; be it unto thee, even as thou wilt." When a person told a story in a heartless way, Demosthenes said, "I don't believe you." But when the story was repeated with great fervor, Demosthenes said, "Now I do believe you." In prayer, sincerity and earnestness must go hand in hand. Martin Luther was so earnest and persistent in prayer that it used to be said of him, he would not be named. When Scotland was in danger of becoming Popish, of being dominated by the Roman hierarchy, John Knox prayed most mightily for its preservation in the Protestant faith. "Give me Scotland," he pleaded, or I die." His prayers were answered.

Prayer is the believer's vital breath. It is the arm by which he hangs on the very neck of the Almighty. It is the key with which he unlocks the unsearchable riches of Christ, and the exhaustless treasures of the God of all grace and consolation. It brings strength to the weak, riches to the poor, grace to the feeble, and salvation to the lost. It makes man, created in the image of God and redeemed by the blood of Christ, full-orbed, enthusiastic, strong. But it must be the earnest prayer of an earnest life.

Multitudes have experienced the power of prayer—earnest, persevering, importunate prayer—when in answer to their supplications, blessings rich and full have come. This was Jacob's experience; this was the experience of the poor woman of Canaan; this was the experience of Luther and Knox, and a long list of great reformers and preachers, and devoted Christians! and their experience may be ours if like them we wrestle with God, "and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."—N. Y. Christian Intelligencer.

CHOICE THOUGHTS.

A Christian away from the Bible is like an army away from its base of supplies.

Do not despise any opportunity because it seems small. The way to make an opportunity great is to take hold of it and use it.—Bacon.

Though you and I are very little beings, we must not rest satisfied till we have made our influence extend to the remotest corner of this ruined world.—S. T. Mills.

A child of ordinary capacity and destitute of property, but converted to God in childhood, is frequently worth more to the Church than ten wealthy men converted at the noon of life.—Dr. John Tald.

I have seen the forest bare to the searching light of the sun, yet no bud swelled and no leaf unfolded, for it was winter time. Then I have stood and felt the life of spring breathe among the trees, and there was not one leaf that did not unroll and spread itself, rejoicing that its time had come to grow. So, Lord, I have known my winter time, when the shining of thy favor wakened no thought of growth in my cold heart. But now the sunlight of thy loving death and the warm breath of thy risen life breathe in my heart, and hope springs forth and life is glad with flowering shoots of joy. Perfect that growth, my God, and bring it to the harvest, to the glory of the risen Christ.—T. Bedloe.

The risen Christ is among us and leads us to victory.—James Mills Thoburn.

Suffering is not the worst thing in the world. The worst thing is disobedience to right. Happiness is not the best thing in the world. Character is the best thing.—Watchman.

SPIRIT-FILLED.

Some Bible Hints.

When Christians are filled with the same spirit, they breathe the same sentiments, they are part of the same spiritual organism, they must be united, "of one accord" (v. 4).

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of intense activity—He is fire, and no lukewarm Christian possesses Him (v. 3).

The first evidence of the presence of the Spirit is speech for Him. There is a breathing in and at once a breathing out (v. 4).

As we receive the Holy Spirit, we cease our distressing fluctuations in goodness, and "continue steadfast" (v. 42).

Suggestive Thoughts.

It is the Spirit-filled Christians, and not the half-filled Christians that overflow in blessings to the world.

If a man is not filled with the Spirit, it is not because there is not enough of the Spirit to fill him.

Are we sad? It is because we are not filled with the Comforter. Are we in doubt? It is because we are not filled with Him who will take of Christ's truth and show it to us.

No one was ever filled with the Spirit that he did not at once seek to fill others. A few illustrations.

The Holy Spirit is fire. If there is impurity in your life, He can burn it up.

The Holy Spirit is the wind. If your ship is stationary, it is because the breeze of divine success is not filling the sails.

The Holy Spirit is a dove. If you are in deep waters, it is because He has not brought you the olive leaves of peace and hope.

The Holy Spirit is water, living water. If you are thirsty, it is because you know nothing of the full satisfaction which He alone can give.

To Think About.

Am I living with the Christ of the Upper Chamber, and not with the glorious Spirit whom He promised?

Is my Christian life full, or half full?

What fruits of the Spirit am I failing to bring forth?

A Cluster of Quotations.

God does not expect a man to live for one minute as he ought, unless the Holy Spirit is in him to enable him to do it.—Andrew Murray.

Is it so wonderful to ask for the power of the Spirit? We ought to have a hundred times more power than Elijah and Elisha had.—Moody.

We should abandon the idea that we are to use the Holy Ghost, and accept the thought that the Holy Ghost is to use us.—A. F. Gordon.

Remember that while the world "resists the Holy Ghost," even a child of God may "grieve" and "quench" him.—Webb-Peple.

The Conference Idea.

Mass meetings are invaluable for the inspiration they give, the sense of united power, and definite direction from strong men and women. But the quiet conference is also of great value for the exchange of methods, and for mutual criticism, that the best methods may be discovered.

That these conferences may be most helpful in our work, it is necessary that they should not be very large, only the earnest workers being brought together. Moreover, they should be led by real leaders, those that are well informed regarding the topics that will be discussed, and able to guide the thought of others into fruitful channels.

A definite printed programme, full of inspiring themes, distributed long in ad-

vance of the time for meeting, is also a necessity, that thoughts may crystallize.

If these conferences are held annually in your local union or in larger districts, they will prove an ever-growing stimulus to your Christian Endeavor work.

FOR DAILY READING.

Al., May 8. The Spirit Jesus sent. Acts 2: 32-39.

T., May 9. Answering prayer. Acts 4: 23-31.

W., May 10. Begetting love. Acts 4: 32-34.

T., May 11. Bringing joy. Gal. 5: 22-26.

F., May 12. Giving power. Rom. 15: 13-19.

S., May 13. Converting sinners. Acts 11: 1-24.

Sun., May 14. Topics—Spirit-filled Christians. Acts 2: 1-4, 41-47.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Church Presbyterian: No matter how great our misfortune, hope will spring up amid the ruins. Some bright flower will be found rooted among the fallen pillars. Where the jackal prowls through the night the dove seeks her food in the morning.

Montana Presbyterian: Many a man's faith has been increased by his doubts. Being honest, he has investigated on grounds of doubt and has found beneath the rubbish of unbelief a firm foundation for faith to rest on. Doubt often rises from the misinformation which we have allowed to gather over the Bible as the soil of the desert around the base of the pyramids. The deeper we dig, the broader the foundation.

Religious Telescope: It is one thing to write a very long article; it is another thing to get an editor to publish it, but it is still a much more difficult matter to induce many persons of good sense to read and like such an article.

Christian Observer: The Christian has been introduced into a state of gracious liberty in Christ. Not only has he been set free from the curse of sin, but he is also delivered from its power. This being the case, he should most carefully keep himself from any personal bondage. He, as a free man in Christ, should always seek to be master of himself. No sinful habit should be allowed to control his life, and the mastery of even sinless indulgences should be guarded. If he finds that he is gradually coming under the dominion of such habits or indulgences he should definitely assert his liberty and control them.

Herald and Presbyterian: Under this modern life in Japan is a great deal of the old paganism. Japan needs the gospel as much as any country in the world. Stripped of what she has acquired from Christian nations in the last fifty years, there is little left to imitate. We need to place emphasis on the virtues won by the long experience of two thousand years of Western civilization, which we are now giving freely to the whole world. In the main the West made progress in the right direction. The Orient has proceeded in the wrong direction. Japan was no exception. That she has reversed her course, and is rapidly absorbing the results of Western progress, is a reason for the highest satisfaction.

The flowers go into the laboratory to yield their perfume, the grapes to be trampled for their juice, the sand in the fire for glass to be formed, so you, beloved, "are chosen in the furnace of affliction." I observed on the beach the sands that are never covered with the tides lie dry and loose, but where they are beaten on by the waves they are moist and compact. The sails of the ship speed it on its way not as swiftly in the day as in the night, for in the day the sun opens the canvas and the humidity of the night closes it and offers a firmer bosom to the wind. This is true of man. Tribulations teach him sympathy with others, and draw him closer to others, and they impel him