

1. Because the duties of religion will be attended with punctuality. The man whose religion is simply religion of feeling and excitement, will attend to the duties enjoined on him with great irregularity. He will act according to the warmth of his feelings: when excited to a certain degree, no one will be more zealous, and, perhaps, more exact in observing the duties prescribed by religion; but as the heat of passion cools, the power to be impelled to action ceases, and Christian duties are neglected, or performed very irregularly. Acting from principle, feeling will never be the criterion, but the will of God. The person thus acting will not bend to circumstances, but make circumstances bend to him. The only question will be, does God require the performance of the service? This being decided, obedience to the requirement will follow as certainly as that a heavy body thrown in the air will fall to the earth. Thus the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

2. It will give strength and influence to character. There are many that appear to have no fixed principle as regards religious matters, but receive the colour of their character from the society in which they change. They fall, like animals tinged with the colour of the objects with which they last came in contact. Such persons cannot be said to possess character, and certainly they can lay no claim to influence. Not so with the man of principle who has seriously and deeply reflected upon what he has embraced, knows what he believes, and why he believes it, and is able to give a reason of the hope that is in him to every one that asketh him. He, like the mighty wind, propelled by a powerful force, moves on unaffected by any little circumstances. The man whose religion is founded on principle and firmness of purpose, will much resemble some exotic plants which may appear to flourish like the palm tree on the spot where they are planted, but on being removed to another clime, droop, wither, and die. But this is not the religion of the Bible; they bear transplanting to any soil; it will flourish in any clime, "from Greenland's icy mountains" to the sun-burnt plains of Hindostan. The man who makes it his ruling aim to act from principle, like the precious stone, will have stamped upon him an intrinsic value that will him go where he will, associate with whom he may, and will be made to see, to feel, to acknowledge his worth. Acting in this way, he will be made to see, to feel, to acknowledge his worth.