

# Our Young People

## Built and Furnished.

Topic for May 28: "ESTABLISHED IN HEART," Rom. 1: 11, 12; Ps. 112-119.

By Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, D. D.

Established means "built up" and "furnished." A house built but not furnished cannot be lived in. So a heart given to God, and yet having no work to do for God, no objects to touch and help for God's sake, cannot be of service. A house furnished but not completely built cannot be lived in. All is confusion and uncertainty; nothing can be found or placed in position. So a heart full of good desires and benevolent works, unless it is complete in its faith and knowledge, cannot be of service. There are men who believe, and do nothing. There are men who do, or try to do, much good in the world, who are yet without a clear knowledge of God. Both are failures in God's sight. I have a stove, but no food to cook in it. Another man has food, but no stove to cook it. Stove and food must get together to complete life. Faith and works must unite in the perfect man. A heart of loving faith doing good in the Master's name—that is an established heart.

Notice, it is in the heart that we are to be established. Not in the mind, though intelligence is good; not in the body, though a strong, pure body is a blessing. But the heart is the centre of life. From it flows good or evil. (Luke 6: 45; 1 John 3: 21.) By it is given the real measure of faith. As Tennyson sings:—

A warmth within the breast would melt  
The freezing reason's colder part,  
And like a man in wrath, the heart  
Stood up and answered, "I have felt."

And we might change Pope's words, and so make them true: "He can't be wrong whose heart is in the right."

How can we gain completeness of heart?

1. By looking to God. But we must think of God as He is, not only good, but righteous. What God is in character, and what He does as a result of His character, that is the way I must know God. God is love, but He is also loving. God is strong, but His strength is active. God is merciful, and His mercy is always working. If you are really religious, your religion will show itself in service. "To be like God"—how often we say those words, and then act just as a little boy acts who wishes to be "like papa," putting on his father's hat and coat! There are a great many ridiculous Christians, trying to "look pious" when they have no vital piety. To be like God is to gain, by association with Him, that love which shall make

me loving, and that strength which shall make me strong to do for others what God has done for me.

2. I am established in heart by looking to Christ. He lived as an example and as a Saviour. "What would Jesus do?" I wonder how many of us ask ourselves that question daily, hourly. I commend that excellent book by Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, "In His Steps," as most helpful. We talk so much of Jesus as our salvation, and yet forget that He saves us that we may save others. (Luke 22: 32; John 21: 15-17.) It makes the heart wonderfully complete and furnished to ever, good work to be with Jesus as a companion.

3. I am established through faith. Faith can be cultivated. The man who lets himself question becomes that most useless and trying thing, "a questioning man." "Can it be done? Will it do any good? How can you get around this difficulty?" so the "bugbears" rise up and paralyze us with fear. Let questions like these alone. Go ahead, though the sea be before you and you cannot imagine how you can pass through it. It will open when your feet touch it. So many people to-day are reopening closed questions. "Is the Bible true? Who wrote the book of Job? Are we sure Christ said what St. John says He said?" It is just like a child pulling up a plant to look at the roots. Let things alone, and go and do your work for God's sake. "What a pity the thorns grow on the rose-bush!" said one. "What a joy that the rose grows on the thorn-bush!" said another. See the good in life, and meet the opportunities, and the heart will be complete and furnished. It is our business to run the machine, no matter where the machine came from or who made it.

4. The heart is established by sacrifice. There can be no love without suffering. "God so loved the world that He gave His Son." His loved suffered. Christ so loved us that He died for us. He suffered more because He loves us; He loves us more because He suffered for us. Deny yourself of something because God needs it and you give it to Him, and see how your heart will grow stronger. Rejoice in pain which comes as a result of your work, and see how much more real life will become. An established heart is never afraid. Read James Hinton's "Mystery of Pain," and see what light it throws upon the heart's growth. "His heart is established and will not shrink." Ah, what a complete, useful heart that must have been!—Christian Endeavor World.

## A Lighthouse Lesson.

A friend told us that he was visiting a lighthouse lately, and said to the keeper: "Are you not afraid to live here? It is a dreadful place to be constantly in."

"No," replied the man, "I am not afraid; we never think of ourselves here."

"Never think of yourselves; how is that?"

The reply was a good one: "We know that we are perfectly safe, and only think of having our lamps brightly burning, and keeping the reflectors clear, so that those in danger may be saved."

That is what Christians ought to do. They are safe in a house built on a rock which cannot be moved by the wildest storm; and, in a spirit of holy unselfishness, they should let their light gleam across the dark waters of sin, that they who are imperilled may be guided into the harbors of eternal safety.—The Quiver.

## The Grasp of the Almighty.

Twixt gleams of joy and clouds of doubt  
Our feelings come and go;  
Our best estate is tossed about  
In ceaseless ebb and flow.  
No mood of feeling, form of thought,  
Is constant for a day;  
But Thou, O Lord! Thou changeest not;  
The same Thou art alway.

I grasp Thy strength, make it mine own,  
My heart with peace is blest;  
I lose my hold and then come down  
Darkness and cold unrest.  
Let me no more my comfort draw  
From my frail hold of Thee—  
In this alone rejoice with awe:  
Thy mighty grasp of me.

Thy purpose of eternal good  
Let me but surely know;  
On this I'll lean, let changing mood  
And feeling come or go;  
Glad when Thy sunshine fills my soul;  
Not lorn when clouds o'ercast;  
Since Thou within Thy sure control  
Of love dost hold me fast.  
—John Campbell Shairp.

## Settle Something.

A rolling faith gathers no satisfaction. As some tenants seem to take delight in being everlastingly torn up with moving, so some souls seem to be afraid to draw a long breath over any doctrine, for fear they will become fossils. A respectable fossil is to be preferred to a perpetual finical fusser. Settle some things to stay settled, and begin to draw the sweetness of satisfaction there is in feeling, "I'll never have to do that over again!"—J. F. C.

Lives rooted in God are never unprotected.—Alexander McLaren.

Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul.—Fenelon.

Thou hast made us for Thyself, and the heart never resteth till it findeth rest in Thee.—St Augustine.

He who walks in righteousness, and speaks uprightness, he will abide on impregnable heights; fastnesses of rocks will be his stronghold, his bread is supplied, his waters never dry up.—Isa. 33: 15, 16 (Polychrome Version).