

instructor, governor and intercessor. I give myself to thee. O Holy Spirit, and implore thee to be my sanctifier, quickener and comforter. I give myself to thee, thou one Jehovah, to be thine in soul and in body, in time and through eternity, and to employ all my time and all that I possess in obeying thy will and in promoting thy glory. I give myself to thee, resolved to take thy Word as my daily guide, thy people as my companions, and thy ordinances as the means of my spiritual refreshment and progressive edification. I give myself to the service of thy Church—to be a labourer in thy vineyard—a preacher of thy gospel, and I desire of thee to accept of me as such—to raise me up to it, and to prepare me for it in the way that will be most to thy honour and glory, the welfare of my soul and the welfare of thy Church. And sensible of the deceitfulness of my heart, and of my own weakness, I desire to do all this in the strength of thy promised grace. O make thy grace sufficient for me, and accept through Christ of this dedication. Help me daily to keep in mind that I have thus devoted myself to thee a living sacrifice, and that I am bound to glorify thee with my body and spirit, which are thine. May the consideration of this be my guard in the house of temptation, and my joy in affliction and in death. Now, Lord, I call heaven and earth to record that I am willingly thine. LORD, SAVE THOU ME.

“SAMUEL F. JOHNSTON.

“February 9th, 1851.”

The above with the exception of two or three sentences is not his own composition. But still it shows the spirit in which he first united with the Church, and his after life showed how sincere and how real this dedication to God was.

We have before us his diary for a year or two of this period of his life. “My intention,” he says, “is to mark down my shortcomings of the day, so that I may have them as warnings for the future; and also to mark down anything that strikes my mind forcibly through the day which I think will afterward be of use to me.” Accordingly we find him subjecting his heart and conduct to a most searching scrutiny, and earnestly seeking to advance in the Christian life. A few brief extracts may be interesting:—

“January 15, 1851.—This day I have found the evil of not being strict to perform what you promise, and also of promising without consideration, and resolved to amend in this.

“17.—I find that if neglectful of prayer once it is difficult to find time again for it, or if I let a trifle stop me from it one time there are many trifles in the way the next time.

“18.—Coolness in prayer soon leads me to view sin with indifference, and also makes prayer a burden. O that I could perform it in a spirit of fervency.

“21.—If God were as unmindful of me as I am of him what would be my state. I have resolved this day not to pray again without first considering whether I have any real wants. O how have I sinned by praying for things which I disregarded whether I got them or not.

“22.—This day has brought forcibly to my mind the great blessing I have enjoyed of having Christian parents, a blessing which cannot be too highly esteemed. O that I may be enabled to make a wise improvement of the instructions they gave me.

“February 23.—This day felt little of the enlivening influences of the Spirit. This is the result of coolness and indifference in prayer. O that my prayer this night may be heard. God be merciful to me, the chief of sinners.