

*The simplicity that is in Christ may be associated with great strength of character.* Some said of St. Paul, "His bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible;" but his letters—I may say, the man—were "weighty and powerful." Martin Luther, with a face of flint, and a will of steel and soul of fire, had the heart of flesh. Against Popery, he stood like the rock which breaks into spray the dashing wave; and all the while the sea is very tempestuous, in calmness of soul yet with an increasing power he proclaims, "The just shall live by faith." In John Wesley, we have another example of piety and strength of character. What a kingly child of God he was! The care of churches, and other interests for many years are upon his shoulders; and amid the activities of his life, often, "pelted, pushed, dragged by clamorous thousands from village to village, in the night, while the rain descends in a storm, and yet as self-possessed, 'as if he were in his study;' and his calm voice ringing in prayer above the noise, silenced with awe the excited multitude, and converted their leaders into defenders who safely delivered him." His light never grew dim, and his hope was full until his last word, "Farewell," passed his lips and his spirit entered the building of God.

Dear reader, be not ashamed of "the simplicity that is in Christ," whether it be taken to mean purity of heart, or a childlike trust whereby we are borne on until we find the secret of the Lord. Thoughtfully and in harmony with reason we look to Jesus, to be saved, and find that God takes us, pardoned and born again, into His pavilion. And what need we care though we may be as ignorant of the *how*, as we are of the whence and whither of the wind. Let your course appear as it may to the worldlywise, this resting all on Christ and consecrating all to God, is our reasonable service. This simplicity will in nowise injure body or mind. It is rather a necessary qualification for life. It is the only way to be saved *from* the ruin of sin, and *to* the life that is eternal.

St. Paul says, "When I am weak, then am I strong;" and we will find that along with self-weakness there is the fuller divine life.—God's plan is to exalt the humble. May our simplicity in Christ more and more increase, even till we sweetly prove "all the depths of humble love!"

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