

In the Hour of Silence.

Surrender.

The hour of His deepest need was the occasion of the richest of our Lord's spiritual experiences. When He could say with all His soul, "Not My will, but Thine, be done," He realized His oneness with the Father as never before and found the strength which carried Him triumphantly through all that lay before Him.

Surrender to another will, may mean slavery and the fear of giving up something essential to freedom and to life, keeps many from praying as they should, "Thy will be done." But we are made in the image of God, His will is what our will ought to be. He is the All Wise, All Holy One whose name is Love and whose will for us is our highest good. Surrender is then discovery. It is the highest freedom, for it is the fullest expression of what life ought to be.

But the will of God is no simple thing to be grasped without effort. It is as rich and full as life itself, nay, as the full character of the Almighty. Through the long history of the race He has been revealing Himself to men. In the pages of the Bible we have the story of men and a nation specially fitted to be the vehicles of the mind of the Divine and the record of the life of the Incarnate One Himself. If we are to know and understand His will we must live and move in the atmosphere of that marvellous book. But we are not alone dependent on any book however rare its riches and its spiritual value. God lives and loves to-day as He has always done and the devout heart may know His will at every moment of its experience. We are spirits and God is a spirit. He meets our spirits in their innermost recesses and makes Himself and His purposes known to us at every turn, if we will let Him. But our lives are so complex and we are so prone to mistake our own perverse and little thoughts for the thoughts and purposes of the Divine that we need the whole experience of godly men of all ages by which to test and rectify our experiences. So when our minds are filled with the thoughts and experiences of those whom God has led and blessed in all ages and most of all with the memory of the life and words of the Incarnate One Himself, we come to know the voice of the Divine as it speaks to our innermost being and we learn through it the will of God.

When we pray "Thy will be done," we put our whole being into harmony with Him and up to the measure of our capacity we become one with Him and He works through us, "Both to will and to do of His good pleasure."