

chains of prayer" which an earnest heart may fasten to the throne of God! No need to "make up" stories of "wonderful answers," life counts realities like this one over and over.

The next day two notes, went from Howard's hand, one of them, saying briefly to his "chance acquaintance," "I can't come at present," gave further vantage-ground to the truth, in that opportunity was not at once cut off. The other, to his teacher, short though it was, encouraged her to make such efforts as she had never made for a soul before. Strange how a little sight seems to aid faith, even more than the promises often. But God "remembers that we are but dust."

It was a long time before Howard Gresham came into the light and openly confessed his Saviour. But he who sent the "preventing mercy" at the critical moment loved and led him to the end.

Long, long afterward, when his earnest Christian activity had become a great joy to his teacher's heart he told her in a confidential moment how her message had met him at the very point where two ways met and had hindered the dangerous choice. The deepest humility mingled with her awed gratitude at the recital. *What if she had not written just when prompted? What if she had delayed a single mail?* No one can answer such questions; but truly the only safe course is to obey at once each divine call and leave results with God.

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### THE YIELDED LIFE.

"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

JESUS of Nazareth has again conquered, and Saul of Tarsus has found his Master. The proud Pharisee is in the dust, humbled, penitent and submissive. He surrenders his self life, and Jesus becomes Lord of his heart. He yields up his own plans that Jesus may rule in his life. This is essential. There must be no reserve, or Paul will fail of the high place God has planned for him, and the "chosen vessel" will be spoiled.

Jesus must have entire management of the life that would receive of his fulness. It is here that we fail, and self is the source of our weakness. We cherish *our* plans, and do *our* pleasure, and blunder. The complete Christian life is found in a hearty, unreserved yielding to the Master's plan.

Once the disciples were in danger of shipwreck because they were managing the vessel. They awakened Jesus and *let him* take command, and immediately there was a calm and perfect safety.

They once toiled with the oar till past midnight, and made no headway toward the desired land. Then they saw Jesus walking on the waters, and welcomed him aboard. And when he had taken charge of the boat they quickly reached the shore.

They dragged their nets throughout the whole night and caught no fish. But in the morning, when they reached land, Jesus drew near. He entered the boat as Commander. "Launch out into the deep; let down your nets," he said. They obeyed, and drew up so great a catch that the nets broke.

We have tried to be holy and helpful, and have been humiliated by our weaknesses and failures. Is there not a more excellent way? Why not let Jesus take complete control, and do in us what we have failed to do? Acknowledge him as our King, who has absolute right to do with us as he pleases. Be willing that self be crucified, and that Jesus be enthroned in our heart. Be willing to have our plans set aside, "bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Invite Jesus to occupy your whole being as Lord of the house, and be thou his bond-servant. Commit every care to him. The blessed Lord will assume the responsibility for the success of the life which is fully yielded to him.

### A DAILY DUTY.

NO Christian should allow a day to pass without having a quiet little talk with the Master.

Just as you go to your mother, and as the twilight falls, sitting by her knee, tell her all that has occurred during the day, all your hopes, joys, fears, wants, disappointments, tell him. Just as lovingly and as interestingly as she listens, will he. Oh, even more so. A mother's love pales beside his; and the love of our heavenly Father is so much greater than the protecting love of our earthly father.

He wants to hear all. He wants you to have that confidence in him, and that nearest to him. He wants to be right in your life, your all and all. Though nothing is hidden from him, yet he loves to have you tell him. He does not want to stand without, almost a stranger in your heart; there he would take up his abode, making your sorrows, joys and pleasure his. The more you commune with him the nearer he will draw to you; but if you allow the world and your own self to stand, an "earth born cloud" to hide him from your sight, gradually you will find yourself going further away from him till at last he is not in your thoughts at all.

So, dear Christians, you who desire to grow daily in grace, determine that, no matter how busy you are, you will every day have this quiet little talk with your Lord. Remember how he loves you, and then tell him everything. Tell him about your friends and their needs, just what you want for them. In his own great needs the generous soul never forgets the needs of others. Tell him upon whose heart you would have him plentifully pour out his Spirit, and whose wandering feet you would guide into the paths of peace. Tell him, too, you want to see some of those loved ones who are far away. Don't let it stop with loved ones. Tell him about some who maybe care very little for you, that have injured you in some way, perhaps. Remember the desires of their hearts when you are talking to the Lord.

Tell him about your failings; how you are so weak just where you so want to be strong. Tell him how earthly you are in all your wishes and true and real, and how you find yourself weak and false and trying to appear what you are not. He knows your faults, only he wants you to tell him about them, then he will send you strength to conquer them. He will make you all you want to be.

Tell him all your plans, how ardently you desire their success; tell him the disappointment it would be if they are overthrown. Tell him about your health, your finance, your need of money, maybe, or of some influential friend. Tell him of the situation you want, the education you can not get, the home you desire, the love you crave, the companion you need. Tell him what you fear; tell him if the clouds seem to be gathering darkly, or if the sun is shining in a clear summer sky. Tell him your temptations, every peculiar little one, sure that his strength will be sufficient for you. Tell him about the work you want to do for him, and what hinders you. Yes, tell him everything, resting assured that he is as near to you as the very nearest, infinitely nearer; and that this daily communion with him will bring him every day more near to you, and you will grow more near to him. as you grow in strength.—*Christian at Work.*