

noon will I pray." Not only think your prayers in private, but speak them in a soft whisper, and wandering thoughts will be largely obviated. Do not be perplexed by the mystery of prayer. It is a mystery to everyone how God speaks to us and we to Him; but the telephone is equally mysterious and inexplicable. There is a telephonic communication between God and us. In the breast of everyone there is a divinely implanted instrument called consciousness. God speaks to us by wireless telephony, and we hear His voice, as evidenced by the divinely-given desires, impulses, peace, love and hope. We also speak to God by wireless telephony, and, being in tune with the Infinite, He hears and answers us.

5. Be a *Trustful* Christian. The Psalmist said, "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust." When danger threatens, the chickens take refuge under their mother's wings, and though it is dark to them there their cheerful chirping expresses their trust. Some of us have not as much faith as a chicken. Let us ever take refuge under God's wings of *promise* and *providence*, and there trust. So shall we, though sometimes it may seem dark and mysterious, be forever secure. Do not confound temptation to doubt with doubt. Everybody is tempted to doubt. You may be tempted to doubt even the existence of God, the truth of the Bible and Christianity, the fact of another life, and everything else divine; but do not therefore think that you doubt, or that you sin in being thus tempted. Have enough sense and grace to resist the temptation: yea, doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs and confidently "rest in the Lord."

The more a tree is swayed the deeper the roots strike down. So let your faith in God and His promises become stronger and deeper if the winds of temptation to doubt

assail you. As you yield yourself to Christ, ever affirm, with full assurance of faith: "Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."

6. Be a *Lifelong* Christian. Hear the Lord graciously speaking to you: "I will make an everlasting covenant with you." Think not of a six months' experiment, or a three months' trial, but of the "perpetual covenant" for time and eternity. You are not, as some suppose, one moment or day a child of the Lord and the next a child of the devil, changing your relation at every slip or misstep, or as your feelings change. Some, when they lose their temper, utter a rash word, or do something else which brings condemnation, think "it is all up with me now," or "it's no use trying," and so give up their faith and hope and abandon their allegiance to Christ. You must not think and act thus. Christ and you have entered into "an everlasting covenant." As in the home life, when we did wrong we did not think "father does not love me," then change your name and leave home, but said, "Father, forgive me and I'll try and never do it again." So, remembering that the Lord is infinitely more loving, patient and forgiving than the kindest earthly father, no matter how many slips, or failures, or defects you may see and lament, keep your will ever Christward, ask forgiveness, trust in Him, and ever know that you are His. Be like Mrs. Phoebe Palmer, who said: "In forty years, no matter what happened through the day, I have not once laid down to sleep without knowing, come life or death, all is well."

We wish you in the highest and best sense a

HAPPY,  
HELPFUL, } NEW YEAR.  
& OPEFUL }

## Some of the Fathers Give Timely Advice to the Young

"I said, Days should speak and multitude of years should teach wisdom."—Elihu.

"Hear, my sons, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding; for I give you a good doctrine; forsake ye not my law."—Solomon.

### A Happy New Year!

To enjoy this, remember the simple conditions. Thorough goodness in personal character and constant usefulness in personal service ensure certain happiness. Reading, observation and experience have made this outstanding fact of human life clear to me. And the sincere utterance of the simple and well-known lines, "Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the power of Grace Divine," makes the process plain to every earnest soul. In this way may every young reader of this find abiding happiness and make every successive day a new one, new with fresh joy in the supreme satisfaction of both getting and imparting good.

JOHN C. BERRIE (1871).

### New Year's Resolutions

I very much regret that so many of our good newspapers publish annually cheap witticisms on New Year's resolutions. Surely, with all the lessons of the old year vividly before our minds, no more suitable time can possibly arrive for an honest purpose to express itself in definite practical form than on the threshold of a New Year. Let no young person, therefore, fear to make such a purpose and to unify it into a definite resolution. "Vow, and pay unto the Lord your God." A. LANGFORD (1857).

### Use Time Wisely

From the age of, say, four years I was accustomed to hear God's people tell their experience. At the age of eight I was truly brought into the church, and sixty-one

years ago I entered the Methodist ministry. I can offer no better advice to our young people than to seek God's guidance in walking the way He has planned for them, and in so walking to determine on a wise use of time. My father taught me when I was but a lad that it is no good for a soul to be without knowledge. Therefore study. He impressed me to remember my Creator in the days of my youth, and thus to walk life's highway with due care and thought. My suggestions to you, dear young people, are practically what he taught me, and by living so you will find the needed aid in building up a beautiful Christian life and character.

WM. McDONAGH (1852).

### Watch for Opportunities

Poor old 1913, while still able to gasp, said to his younger son 1914, "My life-blood is ebbing away, but before I go I would like to give you a word of cheer. Whenever the girls and boys have been kind, gentle, and thoughtful of others, my old heart has been warmed and my eyes have sparkled with delight. The recollection of these times almost makes me feel like asking that the shadow on the dial be moved backward ten degrees that I might feel again the great joy they gave me. Surely the boys and girls you meet will be watching for opportunities to do good to one another, and so prevent you from growing weary and discouraged before you accomplish your 365 days. 'Time is the warp of life. O tell the young, the fair, the gay, to weave it well.'" And with this wise admonition poor old worn-out 1913 went the way all his forefathers had gone before him. Heed his counsel and be wise,

JOSEPH YOUNG (1867).