

may seem to lead an exemplary life, while inwardly he cherishes motives utterly at variance with the will of God; he may sacrifice all he has, he may "give his body to be burned," and may prove a cipher after all. *Our life* is more within than outside. We are invisible beings—spirits, living through, but mostly within fleshly tabernacles. "Filthiness of spirit" is therefore as much sin in our life as filthiness of the flesh, and there cannot be purity of inward life until the polluting element is washed away.

Sin in the inner life generally shows itself openly. Subdued by grace, it nevertheless gives a coloring to speech and action. It mars holy work. It precludes freedom. It is a body of death which makes many a good man wretched. It is another law warring against the law of the spiritual mind, thwarting its purposes and desires. Are we to be holy in outward life? How can we until free from this inward law of sin and death?

Holiness is power. It is from above. It is the power of God in man. There are those who to the extent of their ability serve and work and suffer; yet their life is a succession of failures. They make desperate resolves. They proceed with violence; but only to be mortified the more. The fact is, they are trying to do what they are not prepared for; just like an engineer trying to start the engine before the steam is up, or when the machinery is out of gear; it won't go; he must first see all right, and have sufficient motive power. Look at the apostles during the mock-trial of Jesus. Not a man of them to speak a word in His defence, and Peter there cursing and saying he doesn't know Him! Yet not many days pass, and those men are the boldest champions for Jesus and His truth, and Peter the readiest of them all. How was it? They had received the endowment of power—the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without this they would not have dared to preach "Jesus and the resurrection"; or if they had, the feebleness of their testimony would have exposed them to triumphant scorn, and they would have been driven by the fiercest malice like chaff before the whirlwind. Let us seek to be holy like the most perfect saint; but not by spending time and strength on fruitless endeavors, ever striving, ever failing. Come to Jesus. Spend hours in prayer and patient waiting. It will be time redeemed. The apostles gained incalculably by tarrying for the power from on high. Abide by the throne of grace, at the feet of Omnipotent mercy, until the voice Divine bids you rise, and you are fully ready either for holy service or fiery trials. Then, "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," the hardest work will become pleasant, the heaviest burden will be light, the greatest sacrifice will be small. Your joy will be full, and its springs will never fail.

A hero pursued by overwhelming numbers, and urged to more rapid flight by his armed followers, calmly dismounted to repair a flaw in his horse's harness. The enemy swept nearer and nearer; but just at the moment when his captivity appeared certain he sprang into his saddle, and flying with greater speed, left them in the distance. The broken buckle was hindering him, and would have made him a prisoner on the field; but by taking time to mend it he escaped, and was soon in the midst of huzzaing comrades. There are broken buckles in many a religious life—resolutions unkept, duties ill-performed or neglected altogether, pollutions of the world not clean escaped, and, what is worse, sinful tempers sometimes raging in the soul.

Pity that so many think to escape by spurring themselves to more tremendous effort in spite of broken buckles and a distempered spirit. It is absolutely necessary we dismount the steed of human righteousness, and trust Christ to repair what is amiss, to take away our sin, and be Himself our sanctification. But the enemy will be upon us! Nay. The mighty Saviour is at hand. The eternal God is our Refuge. "And he shall thrust out thine enemy from before thee. Israel then shall dwell in safety alone."—*King's Highway*.