

discovered that God does not approve. For that perfect love which fills his soul makes it impossible that he should consent, even for a moment, to any feeling that contradicts or opposes it. So he is delivered from doubt concerning the great central truths which constitute the Gospel. He spontaneously chooses the will of God in everything. He suffers in himself no anger except a holy indignation against sin. He is delivered from envy or jealousy, because in him humility is perfect, and he can be content to be at the bottom and others at the top when God so arranges it. He can read the strongest statements of christian attainment contained in the Bible with the feeling that they are his within reach, if not in actual possession. The promises of God shine before his eyes and recall to him their riches with a beauty and force before unknown. He still hungers and thirsts after righteousness, and gets filled, and hungers and thirsts again, and again gets filled, and so he lives the life of God. He is not, therefore, dependent upon a rousing meeting, or a clear day, or congenial society, or pathetic preaching, or even high health, for his religious enjoyment, for, although he appreciates all of God's gifts as fully as before, and some of them more so, yet his joy comes from God himself, with whom he has uninterrupted communion. He has the *constant* witness of the Spirit. So he enjoys perfect *rest* of soul as it regards all matters between himself and God. Earthly ambition is dead, the fires of lust are replaced by the fires of the Holy Spirit. Personal display is denied. All the person tells for God, in the eyes of those who are spiritually minded, and have, therefore, eyes to see these things aright. He delights in the society of the holy ; the greater the holiness the greater the delight. Has an intense yearning to see God glorified. No temporal calamity is so much feared as the loss of God's favor, and nothing so saddens his soul as the sin that he sees around him. He is in some way or other, and perhaps in many ways, an incessant worker for God, omitting no opportunity, and shrinking from no self-denial when God gives the command. So, he cannot but be useful to man, and is generally more useful than he knows. And it all results from taking Christ in his fulness as the New Testament presents him for our acceptance. See especially John 14, 15, 16 ; Rom. chap. 6 and 8 ; I. Cor. 1. 30 ; and the whole first epistle of John.

B. S.

---

The first essential prerequisite to Christian perfection, and a leading characteristic of it throughout, is a cheerful, perfect submission to the will of God.