

verts make half-way Christians. Too many church-members hang their boughs over on the Church side of the wall, but their roots are on the world's side—such people bear nothing but leaves. Unless the submission of the soul to Jesus Christ is without compromise, and unless the work of the Holy Spirit is deep, there will be a half-heartedness and halting which is very likely to end in open backsliding. The secret of Caleb's fidelity was that "he had *another spirit* within him." His heart held him true, and God held his heart.

There is prodigious power in singleness of love for Christ; in doing just "one thing," and that one thing a pressing toward the goal to likeness to Jesus. A man of very moderate talents and education becomes a strong influential man as soon as the Master gets complete control of him. He follows that Master so heartily and so projectively that he carries other people with him by the sheer momentum of his personal godliness. During my long ministry I have come to estimate Christians, not so much by brain-power as by heart-power. Weighing is a safer measurement in a church than counting.

When a minister is to be chosen, godliness should outweigh genius. Thorough-going piety is the foremost qualification for an elder, a superintendent, a Sabbath-school teacher, or for practical Christian work of any kind. "Many are called, but few are *chosen*." The choice Christians never commute with the Master for half-fare, or demand a cushioned seat in the parlor car. They never "send their regrets" when they are summoned to duty; they never interpret Christ's commandments in a lax or latitudinarian sense; if there is a doubt on any question of ethics, they never give self or the world the casting vote, and if a hard pinch comes, they relish even the severities of a difficult duty.

Another characteristic of the Caleb-type of Christians is that they are just as active in ordinary times as they are amid the fervors of a revival. It is easy then for even a minimum Christian to catch fire, to rush to special meetings, to sing hymns and shout hosannas. A season of spiritual quickening brings great glory to God, and great blessings to a church; but it also brings a great disgrace on those church-members who are too indolent or too worldly to lift a finger at any other time. Revivals fill the churches; seasons of dryness and dullness winnow the churches.

We pastors never love our Calahs and Bar nabases and our Phoebeas and Priscillas as much as we do in the dry spells of spiritual drought; they always work right along without any need of external pressure. Their

salt never loses its savor; their lamps never smoke. When silly social fashions are blowing the chaff along in the breeze, solid Caleb does not feel it; his only fashion is to follow Christ. His single purpose is to please his Master and not men—and that trieth his heart and proves it to be of pure gold. Good reader, I have been presenting a picture of what every blood-bought follower of Jesus ought to be. Have I photographed your character? Then you ought to be a happy man or woman—whatever your social rank, or your income, or your surroundings may be. "An abundant entrance" shall be given to you into the shining streets of crystal and of gold; you will not barely creep in through a gate ajar; and when you get to Heaven, you will *feel at home there*.

### STARTING OUT FOR CHRIST.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

A great deal depends upon making the right start in the Christian life. Some start, and then stop; they are satisfied with joining the Church, and make no progress afterward. Others start and soon retreat, either through discouragement or being decoyed back to the world. God's Word has mottoes for beginners, as well as counsels and encouragements for every stage of the journey. There is one text that has the ring of a bugle in it, and I always urge young converts not only to mark it in their Bibles, but to inscribe it on their hearts. The words are in the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah, and they are these: "For the Lord God will help me. Therefore shall I not be confounded; therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed."

This passage will have a double power with an inexperienced beginner; it saves him from discouragement, and warns him against self-confidence. He would be a fool who should undertake to get on in business without anybody's help. The young physician must not only help his patients, but be helped by them. The merchant can do nothing without customers, or the lawyer without clients. If an attempted independence of everybody else would be fatal in all business pursuits, so an independence of divine help would be fatal in the religious life. Self-reliance is a very good thing in the right place; but self-reliance in the battles with the world, the flesh, and the devil, means sure self-destruction. Some presumptuous young Christians set out with very sanguine courage: their idea is "I can do it, and I will do it." They have not yet measured swords with the enemy. Wise