

ADVICE TO THOSE WHO ARE PERFECT IN LOVE.

BY REV. J. A. WOOD.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THOSE PROFESSING HOLINESS?



KEEP up a daily, or rather a perpetual, consecration of all to God. Search and surrender, research and surrender again, and keep every vestige of self upon the altar under the consuming, sin-destroying flame. Sanctification cannot exist one moment without keeping all upon the altar. "Submit yourselves, therefore, to God."

2. Remember, the life of a Christian is a life of faith. You were justified by faith, you were sanctified by faith, and you must stand by faith. There must be a continuous act of faith. The faith of the sanctified soul becomes in a sense a state of his mind—a habitude of his soul. You must give up all idea of resisting temptation or of acceptably performing any service for Christ by the mere force of your own resolutions. This is to be your victory, "even your faith." "The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God."

3. You must acquire the habit of living by the minute. Take care of the present moment. Trust in God now; do God's will now; do not offend God now. You are to act for the future; but act by the minute. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

4. Live in the constant use of all the ordinary and instituted means of grace—prayer, meditation, studying the Scriptures, the sacrament. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

5. Do all you do in the name of the Lord Jesus and to the glory of God. The Saviour expects you to eat, drink, dress, spend your time, talents, and property, and transact your business with reference to the same objects for which you pray, read your Bible, and worship God. "Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

6. Avoid sinful lightness and levity on the one hand, or moroseness on the other. Be cheerful, but not frivolous and vain; sorrowful, but not sour or gloomy. Maintain the dignity, the purity, and the sanctity of the Christian character. "Be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity."

7. Cultivate the deepest reverence in your approaches and addresses to God. Never allow yourself to use light or irreverent expressions of God, or of His great work, however joyful or ecstatic you may be. You are "a temple of the Holy Ghost;" therefore be careful, and walk softly before God. "I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect."

8. Study the Bible. Be a Bible Christian. Let your holiness be a Bible holiness in theory, in experience, and in practice. Make your honesty, justice, veracity, and self-denial harmonize with the teaching of the Bible. Avoid encouraging in others, or seeking yourself, any mystical experience not explicitly taught in the Bible. Be satisfied with increasing love, power, and communion with God, and avoid all those mystical things and unscriptural