

work, and give a decided bias towards those parts of it which feed vanity, ambition, avarice, in short, any and every form of selfishness. It can claim right of way in all kinds of self-denial, and have its claim allowed. Indeed, it is quite possible to dress up a form of sainthood which is all worldliness, and yet have it command the admiration of one's self and the visible Church of God.

Jesus Christ taught this possibility distinctly and constantly. "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven," implies this fact. Indeed, if closely studied, it teaches the startling fact that every one who doeth not the will of God is out of this kingdom mentioned, no matter how persistent his claim to be in it.

It is evident that he that doeth the will of the Father cannot be worldly in any direction, for then it would be the will of God that we should exhibit such a spirit of worldliness. The fact is that the more Christ's teachings are scanned the more evident will it become to all that any and all who have to confess to failure in doing the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, in that act confess to worldliness in some of its forms.

THE EXIGENCIES OF THE CREED.

What slaves men are to their creeds! Experiences must be made to harmonize with them at any cost. Here is an example which we clip from a Christian experience published in the pages of *Divine Life*:—

"The only kind of temptation worthy of mentioning which I occasionally experience is ugly, even horrible thoughts. I class them with the 'vain thoughts' of the Psalmist, which he says he 'hates,'—and the 'fiery darts' of the wicked, which St. Paul says, and which I have experienced, can only be quenched by the shield of faith. These thoughts in their cyclone track leave as debris no sins to be repented of, but transient seasons of grief and mourning, crying for the Comforter to heal.

In these sad seasons, which I suspect

are caused by inadvertent neglect of prayer and watchfulness, oh, how precious is the Saviour, the man that died for me—who Himself having been tempted, is able to succor them that are tempted—who was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Wonderful! Through Him these spiritual storms leave our spiritual sunlight and sky calmer and brighter than before, as the natural tornado purifies the elements of nature.

Dr. Lowery, I suggest that you give us in *Divine Life*, as soon as convenient, one of your perspicuous essays on "evil thoughts" in the experience of the wholly sanctified."

This party is giving an experience in harmony with the teaching that at sanctification original sin is taken out of the soul. But here is a troublesome fact, which looks very much as if the old Adam had not left his abode, and the party is puzzled to account for the uproar. It would be a simple matter to admit that there was something radically wrong here, and seek for a solution of the difficulty from the Great Teacher, who has been sent into the world for this very purpose. But this would destroy the creed, mayhap, and so the trouble is accepted as the inevitable and the appeal made to some human seer to calm the troubled soul.

See how this writer undertakes to sublime into the purity of heaven something which would be pronounced on in an ordinary sinner as real sin; because, forsooth, it occurs in a soul out of which it is presumed inbred sin has been expelled. "In these sad seasons, which, I suspect, are caused by inadvertent neglect of prayer and watchfulness." Here the admission is made that the commands of Christ and the apostle Paul are broken, but *inadvertently*. Christ said, "What I say unto you, I say to all, *Watch*." Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." This party, imitates the Pope and takes out a special indulgence for himself, and so is relieved from the necessity of perfect, continuous obedience to these commands. That is, because he has believed for cleansing from inbred sin, inadvertent disobedience is perfect obedience.