

## WAITING—FOR WHA'?

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

In almost every congregation, we ministers confront a certain number of regular hearers, whose faces become as familiar to us as the pews they occupy. They are still unconverted; although if any message from heaven should announce to them that they will die unconverted, it would startle them like an explosion of dynamite:

## THEY ARE WAITING

—not upon God; but after the fashion of the impotent crowd by the pool of Bethesda, they are waiting for something to turn up. Let me address a few frank, loving words to some such who are in danger of lingering until the highest purpose of life is lost, and the gate of heaven is closed against them.

One of you perhaps, is waiting for  
MORE CONVICTION

of sin. How much do you require in order to accept the new life which Jesus offers? What did that cripple at Bethesda require to know and feel, except that he was diseased, helpless, and friendless? If your reason admits that you are a sinner, and that unless Jesus saves you, you will perish—this is conviction enough to start with. The Bible furnishes no feeling-meter to determine how badly a guilty soul shall feel before that soul strives to obey God. To tell God that you will never serve Him until He pierces you through with an intense anguish for sin is an insult; it increases your guilt. No "angel" is going to trouble the stagnant pool of your heart with quickening power, while you are disobeying God and insulting the compassionate Saviour. For pungent conviction, or a sudden startling conversion, you need not wait; if you do, you are

## CHEATING YOUR SOUL

with a delusion of the devil.

Your immediate duty is condensed into that pithy sentence which Christ uttered to the cripple in the Bethesda porch—*'Arise, take up thy bed, and walk!'* You are on a bed of sinful procrastination now, put there by yourself. For all these past years, which have been worse than wasted, you have kept yourself there. Conscience confirms what I say. Every sinner is a sinner because he

## CHOOSES TO BE ONE;

and you are no exception. Jesus commands you to forsake your sins (which are

diseasing you now, and will damn you hereafter), and follow Him. The instant that you are ready to obey, He gives you strength to obey. He commanded the wretched cripple, who had been "in that case" for over thirty years to stand up! What, on these weak and withered limbs? Certainly; for he could have no others to stand on. And the moment that the man is ready to obey, and makes the honest effort, a new power shoots through the palsied muscles. Christ did not lift him; the man rose up himself on his own limbs; but Christ gave him the power. His part in that healing transaction was faith; Christ's part was restoring grace. Put the two together, and you have the history of every true conversion that ever took place, or that is ever likely to occur.

## Waiting

## WILL NOT BRING CONVICTION;

but only increase of guilt. You are under a spell, just where Satan wants to keep you; the first act you honestly perform to please Jesus Christ breaks the spell. The first sincere prayer you offer for pardon and for Divine help, the first sin you refuse because Jesus bids you do so, puts you on your feet. These steps are your steps. A gentleman who had sat under forty years of faithful preaching came into my study one day and said to me, "I have determined to-day to settle the salvation of my soul;"—he did so by giving his heart to God. Many years of happy usefulness have followed that decisive day. But you say, "Oh, the Holy Ghost was working upon that man;" so He was, and so has He striven with you a thousand times and is doing so still. Waiting for the Spirit is only another form of the same delusion. The loving Spirit has waited on you and waited for you to repent and accept Christ, and may not wait much longer. My dear friend, you are fooling with your soul's salvation. When that gentleman of whom I just spoke quit the mattress of sinful sloth and delay, and decided to obey the voice of Christ, his "feet and ankle-bones received strength." He took up his bed and walked—has been walking nobly ever since.

Another person may be waiting for

## A POWERFUL REVIVAL,

when the waters will be greatly agitated, and then you will be cured of your sins and made whole. A genuine Revival signifies the work of the Divine Spirit on