

bands have all got a twist), servants, children—always remember, I must not try to get things right round about me, but must try to be right myself.

Here is one of the secrets of the Christian life. . . . A bad servant, a naughty child, a worrying husband—these things are the will of God to you. It is not the will of God that they should do the naughtiness, but it is the will of God that you should be in that trial. Only when a Christian has learnt to accept all as the will of God, dear mothers, can he get a peace nothing can take away.

Look at Joseph, sold by his brethren.

In that he saw the will of God. Look what Jesus endured from Judas, Pilate, and Peter. Each was doing something very wicked, but Jesus accepted the will of God in all; that was how he could bear it. Any trouble in housekeeping, any trouble with husband or friends, you must learn to accept as the will of God. If your heart only opens up to see that! If not, with every trouble that comes you get worried, and say a word not full of the love of God, that breaks your power, and the children get influenced in a way you never know. Half the trouble in a Christian life comes not from sins and temptations outside, but from the way we treat the sins and wrongs of others. We cannot live the true Christian life until we learn in everything to welcome God. Is God in everything? Can anything come for a moment between God and me? No, not if I recognise God in everything. That servant who breaks a valuable piece of china, that child who has spoiled a lovely table-cover, how often it brings up a momentary worry! But that was God's will for me, and that is the blessing we want to leave you at this convention; to get God so around you, to get your eyes so opened to see God all around you, to get your will so into the will of God, that nothing can separate you from the will of God.

I would ask the question Is this not part of the trouble of your Christian life? If you are to say, Yes, those worries do affect me, cause impatient words, disturb the deep peace of soul promised in God's precious word, bring me under deep conviction that I have not got the keeping power of Jesus as my own, do not think that these worries are not important things; they are of the most importance. The only cure is: I am going to see, going to meet my God in every trouble that comes, the greatest and the least. You have learnt it about great troubles. You have learnt to say, 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.' Though you say it with a weeping, bleeding heart, you would still say, 'It is his will.'

But it is the little troubles that are God's will as much as the great ones.

All troubles and difficulties may become blessings because messengers from our Father. In Africa a wife thinks of her husband who is far away. She is longing for tidings. A month passes without tidings. One day there comes an ugly black Kaffir, with savage face: she is frightened and runs into the house. But he follows, and hands her something wrapped in a dirty rag, or a piece of skin, as is their custom. She is afraid to take it, but on opening it she finds a message from her husband. She forgets all the ugliness of the bearer in the joy. The Kaffir goes away. Another month passes, and there are no tidings. The first time she was frightened at the ugly Kaffir, but now she longs for him. He comes. He is as black, as savage as at first, but he is the bearer of a loving message from her husband, and she has learnt to welcome him because he brings a blessing.

Have you ever learnt to say, 'I will meet every little trouble in my house as a loving

message from Jesus,' who says, 'My child, I want to see if you will be perfectly patient, perfectly gentle?' I am going, in every trouble and difficulty, to say, 'This is now my Lord Jesus come to bless me, and he never comes to try me without coming himself before all the troubles.'

You often say, 'We go to God's word to find his will.' Yes, but I want you also to find God's will in every little trouble of daily life. And you can have fellowship with God every day with the bible shut, if you meet every temptation and difficulty with that blessed faith—It is God! Realize in this or that difficulty, with this naughty servant, disobedient child, this careless mother—It is God has brought me into this. God has brought me into it, and I will say two things—(1) Father, thou hast brought me in; give me grace to know how to behave in the trial. He will give grace in due time to bring me out. So I will meet him in every trouble with the words—Trust him. 'Praise the Lord, here thou art.' Old and young men and women, learn the lesson to-day, your greatest temptations are just the little things of daily life that worry you, disturb your peace, render it impossible to keep up an abiding fellowship with Jesus, make a cloud for a time that you don't know how to get rid of, and so darkness comes. Let me learn the lesson in everything that may make me lose my temper, that may worry me—I am going to say, by God's grace, it is God who sends; it is through him I am brought into this trouble; I can count on him to keep me while I am in it, and then to bring me out.

(2) If he brings me in he will bring me out in his good time. But don't let that be the first question: rather, How am I in this trouble to glorify God, to behave as one guided by Jesus? I feel so deeply in the Christian life that this worry is a continual cause of failure and I know many a mother is sorely troubled about it.

To those whose children are young, oh, let me say, by all that is precious in those souls, or tender in your love to them, or precious in the covenant of God, mothers, do live consecrated, holy lives; that is what God wants. It will be a fountain of blessing to your children. Educate every child for God. It is a great thing to know what I am educating a child for. You sometimes have a father who says, 'I am educating my child to be an engineer.' From youth up he lets that child play with machinery. Let every parent say, I am educating my child for God; and pray God for grace to have the faith. We live in a world full of temptation. The spirit of the world comes into the church. Godly parents have often to hold intercourse with relatives, neighbors, in whom is the worldly spirit. It is difficult to keep the children separate. Jesus said, 'They are not of the world, as I am not of the world.' He came and lived a heavenly life upon earth, and trained his disciples for heaven. And how can you train your children for him, unless you come day by day fresh out of heaven?

The question sometimes comes up about giving children missionary work. Some are seeking the consecration blessing, whose heart is not clear about letting some dear boy or girl go for Christ. But Christian parents are coming to count no honor higher than giving their children for Christ.

I come to plead with every mother, Give up your child absolutely for Christ; he will never hurt your child. We cannot play with consecration; Christ must have all. I am going to speak it out in prayer. It may be your only child. But you heard last night, Jesus must have all. Have you let him take all? Let every child be yielded up to the blessed Master, to be trained for him.

You rejoice when your child gets a high appointment in India; you would do anything to obtain that; you do not talk of the sacrifice then. Shall we talk of sacrifice in the service of Jesus? God forbid. Let it be a joy and glory to say, 'Jesus, every child is thine for ever.'

Everything depends upon what you are. My dear mother said, 'I did nothing.' She lived and did from hour to hour what she thought was right, and the blessing of God did all.

Give up your life to Jesus, and the immortal spirits entrusted to you. Say, Jesus, I can never educate those children unless thou comest nearer than ever before. He will. Jesus Christ gives all; he will give himself to be your life; he will take complete possession of every care and duty. Give all to him. Let it go absolutely, and he will be absolutely yours. Oh, train your children for him.

Dear mother, it is not what you do, what you think about the theory of education, but, above all, the quiet influence that goes out from a mother every day and hour. How is that influence to come? By separation. It means real, separated lives. When Samson was to be born, not only he himself, but his mother too, was to be a Nazarite; she was to keep from the fruit of the vine.

### Unknown Riches.

That great, heavy, nailed-up box had stood in a corner of the dark cellar for many a year. Every one was so used to seeing it lying there that no one took any pains to find out what was in it. If its contents were ever thought of at all, it was as lumber, hastily packed, when in time of blinding sorrow a change of home had become necessary long ago.

There lay the box year after year, seldom moved because so heavy.

One day, during that time generally more or less dreaded by all conscientious households—the time of house cleaning—a member of the family said to the cook, 'When you do the cellar just find out what is inside that big box, then let me know, and I will come and see about it.'

Cook was young. Anything out of the common run of work was pleasant to her, so information concerning the contents of that box was soon forthcoming.

'Please, ma'am,' said she, 'it's full of plates and dishes packed in straw. I've spread them all out on the cellar floor.'

Her mistress followed her in surprise. There, on the stone floor of the cellar lay an ample dinner service of a good old-fashioned pattern. Slowly stole back into her mind the recollection that the crockery had been bought just before that time of trouble twenty years ago. Then it had been stowed away and quite forgotten.

'And we have been making do cracked, odd plates and dishes all these years,' thought she, 'just because, though this service was in the house, we never knew it. It had been laid by and forgotten. I wonder what other "unknown riches" we possess, but might as well not have—unused because unknown!'

'I fear this is how we often treat the gracious provisions of our God. We put off examining them, and finally forget them, till it is as though we had them not.'

Happy the soul that turns such thoughts as these into definite prayer, that they pass not away as thoughts only, but become something realized in the life. Lord, quicken my heart, that I may remember and search out; open mine eyes that I may enjoy the riches so freely given by thee.—'Friendly Greetings.'