

But if we are to walk with God, there are a few things requisite. In the first place, we must go nowhere that Christ will not go. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." Christ is not there. "Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Christ is not there. "Nor standeth in the way of sinners." Christ is not there. If you would walk with Christ, keep out of all evil company—from every place where you cannot go in the Spirit of Christ. If you go out of the territory where He would go, you need not expect to find Him.

And yet I do not say you must not go among wicked people, Christ went among them. If you go for the purpose of doing them good, you may go to the very edge of the pit of darkness to rescue men, and you are perfectly safe; for Jesus says: "Lo, I am with you alway." But if you go for pleasure and amusement, then you are forsaking Christ, and a cloud will gather around your vision. If you walk with Christ, you must have no conversation that is unbecoming the Gospel. Let no unholly word proceed out of your mouth; it would grieve Him. Young man, when you are sitting beside your mother, there are a great many things you would not say which you do sometimes say in company. Shun all such conversation. Remember Jesus is near—the character of purity, and truth, and love, and holiness; and, if you would walk with Jesus, let your lips be guarded, and your words be cared for. If you would walk with Jesus, be careful of your spirit. If you hate anyone, the love of God cannot be in you. Christ does not reveal His presence to a soul that does not love. But you may say: "The man has done wrong." That may be true, but yet you ought to love him—not for his wrongdoing, but to do him good. You may say: "That man has treated me badly; I will never speak to him." Yes, and while you retain that spirit Christ will never speak to you. Did that man offend you? Never, as you have offended Christ. You can't pray for forgiveness unless you forgive. And unless you have the spirit of love in your heart, you may try to be a Christian, but you are not like Christ, and you are not with Christ, and will never feel the glowing emotions of love in your heart. If you walk with Christ, you must be like Him; your spirit must partake of the heavenly; you must be willing to forgive; and you must be kind, and prayerful, and earnest, and fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Oh! there is sunshine for the soul; it is found under the cross! Oh! there is communion with God; it is found by being like Him and walking with Him.

But you may ask, possibly: "Suppose we walk with God from early youth, can we be translated that we shall not see death? Some have thought so, but there is no ground for such an opinion. Translations were to be a proof that heaven was near. Enoch lived in an age of material science. The earth was full of inventors; and men were saying, "No God." When Enoch prophesied that the Lord would come with ten thousand of His saints to take vengeance, they said, "It is not so." And just then God let down His chariot, and let them see there was an invisible world. And so in the day of Elijah. But it is not necessary for us now. There is a heaven, and we know it; and it makes very little difference how we close our eyes."

And now, my dear friends, oh! how my soul yearns that some of you may begin a higher life to-day. Young people, aim at this walking with God. Christians of age, you know something of the sweetness of it; cultivate it more. My heart has often burned within me when I have thought of the last view we have of Jesus, walking among the golden candlesticks, taking care of the churches. He is in the churches, and if you want to walk with Jesus, walk in the churches; take care of them; do all you can for them; labour for their good; try to save souls. Mothers, set about it to-day; teach your children more of Jesus. Fathers, set about it to-day; let your sons see you are more like Jesus. Men of position, consecrate yourselves to Christ, and let the world see that you are living as seeing Him who is invisible. All of you, gather around the Church, for Jesus has said: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It is on a rock. And oh! to-day, as you go home, may you walk with Jesus! When you go to your homes, may you find Him there! May He impart bliss to all your domestic life! May He elevate your thoughts!

Oh, how sweet to walk with Jesus! If you knew that to-day would be your last day on earth, how would you walk with Jesus to-day!

ILLUSTRATIONS OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE.

BY D. L. MOODY.

HARD UP.

WHEN I first went to Boston my money was soon gone, and my circumstances were getting desperate. Although there was but one mail a day, I went three times a day to the post-office to see if there was a letter from my sister, and I was awfully glad at last to get it. She had heard that there were a great many pickpockets in Boston, and a large part of that letter was an exhortation to be very careful not to let anybody pick my pocket. Now, this was rather a good joke, for, at that time, I had first to get something in my pocket before it could be picked.

HUGGING THE BURDEN.

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." Glorious, is it not, to know we have such a Saviour? Can you believe that He has lifted your burden off your shoulders on to His own? Then you will feel light in heart. On one occasion, after I had been talking this way, a woman came forward and said: "Oh, Mr. Moody, it's all very well for you to talk like that, about a light heart. But you are a young man, and if you had a heavy burden like me, you would talk differently. I cannot talk in that way, my burden is too great." I replied: "But it's not too great for Jesus." "Oh," she said, "I cannot cast it on Him." "Why not? Surely it is not too great for Him. It is not that He is feeble. But it is because you will not leave it with Him. You go about hugging your burden, and yet crying out against it. What the Lord wants is that you leave it with Him, to let Him carry it for you. Then you will have a light heart, sorrow will flee away, and there will be no more sighing. What is your burden, my friend, that you cannot leave it with Christ?" She replied: "I have a son who is a wanderer on the face of the earth. None but God knows where he is." "Cannot Christ find him, and bring him back?" "I suppose He can." "Then, go and tell Jesus, and ask Him to forgive you for doubting His power and willingness; you have no right to mistrust Him." She went away much comforted, and I believe she ultimately had her wandering boy restored to her!

COMFORT IN BEREAVEMENT.

A friend of mine, who had been in Eastern lands, told me he saw a shepherd who wanted his flock to cross a river. He went into the water himself and called them; but no, they would not follow him into the water. What did he do? Why, he girded up his loins, and lifted a little lamb under each arm, and plunged right into the stream, and crossed it without even looking back. When he lifted the lambs the old sheep looked up into his face and began to bleat for them; but when he plunged into the water the dams plunged after him, and then the whole flock followed. When they got to the other side he put down the lambs, and they were quickly joined by their mothers, and there was a happy meeting. Our great Divine Shepherd does this. Your child which He has taken from the earth is but removed to the green pastures of Canaan, and the Shepherd means to draw your hearts after it, to teach you to "set your affections on things above." When He has taken your little Mary, Edith, or John, accept it as a call to look upward and beyond. You, mother, are you weeping bitter tears for your little one? Do not weep! Your child has gone to the place where there is neither weeping nor sorrow. Would you have it return? Surely, never.

Faith is the only bunch of hyssop that applies the blood of Christ to us and our spiritual sacrifices.

We fear evils because we apprehend they will be too hard for us, and overmatch us; but God's presence apprehended, dissipates these fears, because we know that God can overmatch all our dangers and distresses.

As the strings of an instrument make no melody till they be struck, or as the birds in spring sing most sweetly when it rains most sadly, so sufferings draw forth the activity, beauty, and fragrance of a Christian's graces.

When the wind blows hardest, the traveller girds his cloak to him the closest; when temptations are most violent and impetuous, we cling fastest to Christ lest we fall, and Christ clasps us fastest because we shall not fall.

FRANCIS ROBERTS, 1679.