

FROM TOLSTOIS "SPIRIT OF
CHRIST'S TEACHING."

CHAPTER V.

THE FULFILMENT OF THE WILL OF THE
FATHER GIVES A TRUE LIFE.
(THY WILL BE DONE.)

The wisdom of life is to understand that we live, but as the sons of the Spirit, who is our Father. Men adopt for their lives the aims of the flesh, and through attaining those aims torment themselves and others. By accepting the teaching of the spirit as to life, and by subduing and quieting the flesh, men obtain the full satisfaction in the life of the spirit, of the life which was appointed for them. It happened once that Jesus asked a woman of another faith to give him to drink. The woman refused, under the pretext that she was of another faith. On this Jesus said to her: If thou hadst understood that he is a living man who asks thee for drink, in whom is the spirit of the Father, thou wouldst not have refused, but have sought by doing good to be united in the spirit to the Father, and the spirit of the Father would have given thee water, not such as that which makes men wish to drink again, but water which gives eternal life. It is needless to pray to God in any appointed place; those only can serve Him in whom is His spirit, by deeds of love.

And Jesus said to his disciples, the true food of man is the fulfilment of the will of the Father. The fulfilment of that will is always possible. Our whole life is a gathering of the living fruits sown in us by the Father. These fruits are the good which we do unto others.

We have no need to await anything; our life must be a ceaseless act of good to men.

After this Jesus happened to be in Jerusalem. There, there was a bathing place, and a man lying doing nothing, a sick man waiting to be cured by a miracle. Jesus went up to him and

said, wait not to be cured by a miracle, but cure thyself as far as thou hast strength, and mistake not the meaning of life. The sick man listened to Jesus, arose, and went his way.

On seeing that, the Pharisees began to reproach Jesus for what he had said, and for having cured the sick on the Sabbath. Jesus said unto them: I have done nothing new, I have done only what our common Father, the Great Spirit does. He lives and gives life to men, and I have done the same. To do this is the vocation of every man. Every man is free to live or not to live. To live, means to fulfil the will of the Father, that is, to do good to others; not to live, means to fulfil our own wills, and to do no good to others. It is in the power of every man to do the one or the other, to obtain life or to destroy it. See what the true life of man is like; a master gave his slaves a part of a valuable property, and ordered them to labor each with his own share. Some did so, and others did not, but hid what had been given them. The master came to call them to account; and to those who had done much he gave more than they already had, and from those who had done little he took everything away.

The share in the valuable property of the master is the spirit of life in man, the son of the Father. He who labors in life for the life of the spirit obtains eternal life; while he who labors not loses the life which was given him.

The true life is the common life of all, not the life of one. All must labor for the life of others.

After this Jesus went into the desert, and many of the people followed after him. In the evening the disciples came and said, with what shall we feed all these men? Among the people there were some who had nothing, and some who had taken with them bread and fish. And Jesus said to the disciples, Give all the bread you have. He took the bread and gave it to his disciples, and they gave it to others,