

QUESTION SPURS.

Have I confidence in God and myself?
Why am I fearful and afraid when duty is to be done?

When God says, "You can," do I dare say "I can't"?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Do not fail to make the application of this topic to the timid members of the League who so often say "I can't" when asked to do some work or engage in some service. There are altogether too many of these. Try and show them that what they may accomplish depends very much on whether they say "I can" or "I can't." Quote Paul's assertion, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

SEPT. 8.—GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE.

Psalm 139, 1-12.

HOME READINGS.

- Mon., Sept. 2.—God greater than all. 1 Kings 8. 22-27.
Tues., Sept. 3.—Maker of all. Isa. 66. 1, 2.
Wed., Sept. 4.—"A God at hand." Jer. 23. 23-32.
Thurs., Sept. 5.—"In Him we live." Acts 17. 22-28.
Fri., Sept. 6.—"In the midst of them." Matt. 13. 19, 20.
Sat., Sept. 7.—Ever present. Matt. 28. 19, 20.

FOREWORD.

We have here the first of three theological studies. First the Omnipresence of God, his pervading presence; then His Omniscience which refers to His perfect knowledge, and lastly His Omnipotence power. These three topics afford a fine opportunity for studying the character of God, which should be made much of.

BIBLE HINTS.

"O Lord thou hast searched me" (v. 1). Rather hast searched me out, i.e., examined into all my thoughts and feelings.

"Thou knowest my downitting and uprising" (v. 2). All that I do from one end of the day to the other. "Thou understandest my thought afar off," i.e., while it is yet forming—long before it is a fully developed thought.

"Thou compassesst," etc. (v. 3). Literally my path and my couch, the time of my activity and my rest.

"Not a word in my tongue" (v. 4). What has already been said of thoughts is now extended to words.

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit?" (v. 7). God's presence is not to be escaped. His presence is everywhere. In Him we live and move and have our being.

"If I take the wings of the morning," etc. (v. 9 and 10). In that distant region I should find thy guiding hand. The psalmist wishes to indicate that God could be found in those regions of the earth into which it was least likely that any Divine influence could penetrate. This was the most forcible way of expressing the thought that nowhere in this wide world is it possible to wander away from the presence of the Almighty.

"Surely the darkness shall cover me" (v. 11, 12). God's essential light penetrates every dark place, and makes the deepest gloom as radiant as the brightest sunshine.

"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me." He felt that his capacities were not sufficient to grasp its wonders, his

strength not adequate to climb the glorious theme.

FOR THE BLACKBOARD.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

The encircling sky that overshadows us wherever we go is a type of the unseen power that surrounds us all.

We are not under the rule of a stranger. How gracious He is, for though He knows all about us, yet this does not stay his blessing.

The sense of God's presence should fill us with a holy fear, a mingling of awe, reverence, and anxiety. It constantly keeps before us the claims of obedience.

When we really love a person, and are quite sure of their response to our love, we want to be always with them. Separation is pain. Presence is rest and satisfaction.

The Lord satisfies the longing of his people with the promise, "Lo, I am with you always."

It is not in crowded cities that we can most strongly feel the presence of God, but on the mountain top, by the lake shore, in the secluded valley.

The loving Christian never talks about God as a Great "Task Master." God's omnipresence is a parental presence that ought to awaken everything noble and beautiful in the child.

The fact of the omnipresence of God is both joyous and terrific, joyous to the soul that is at peace with God, terrific to one in antagonism to his maker.

If we are at peace with God, and are cherishing toward Him the submissive, trustful spirit which becomes his children the thought of being ever in his presence can never be terrible to us.

Take Jeremy Taylor's noble thought and practice "the presence of God" so that you can realize His nearness at all times.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

The first navigator who from the shores of England reached the shores of America said, "Heaven is as near to us on the sea as on the land."

When Jonah sought to flee from God's presence, he found himself brought more absolutely and more perceptibly into His presence.

An atheist is like a man going to hear an oratorio, the "Messiah," or the "Elijah," performed by a hundred musicians, and who says that all those wonderful harmonies that intoxicate the soul were not previously arranged by Handel or Mendelssohn, but were the accidental result of those hundred men playing at random upon a hundred instruments.

Milton as a young man travelled much abroad. Years after he thus expressed himself: "I again take God to witness that in all places where so many things are considered lawful, I have lived sound and untouched from all profligacy and vice, having this thought perpetually with me—that though I might escape the eye of men, I certainly could not the eye of God."

The best illustration of God's omnipresence is the physical conception of the ether, that wonderful unknown element which is the bond of the physical universe.

If a child's hand is laid in the ocean, we know that the level of the great sea everywhere is raised to correspond. So God responds everywhere to the hand of a child.

QUESTION SPURS.

Am I trying to escape this omnipresent God?

Is the thought of God's presence a delight to me or a fear?

Is my life such that I welcome God into every part of it?

Point Iroquois Summer School, August 5-11, 1907

STAFF.

Chairman—Rev. Geo. Edwards.
Old Testament—Prof. McLeschin.
New Testament—Rev. Dr. Courtice.
Mission Study—Mr. Beaton.
Christian Citizenship—Rev. Dr. Eby.
Rev. E. E. Scott and Rev. Dr. Courtice.
Special Lecturers—Rev. W. P. Boshart, Rev. E. E. Scott.
Musical Director—Rev. G. Stafford.
Chaplain of the school in charge of the "Morning Watch"—Rev. Wm. Timberlake.
Send to the Rev. Geo. Rogers, Iroquois, for complete calendar.

The Windsor District Summer School

Will be held on the Mettawas Grounds, Kingsville, Aug. 13th to 19th, 1907. This school gives promise of surpassing all others of previous years. It is an ideal location overlooking Lake Erie, conveniently situated on the Pere Marquette R. R., and Windsor and Lake Shore St. R. R.

The Assembly hall in the Casino is well adapted for the school sessions. The buildings are electric lighted and comfortable.

In the grounds is a tennis court and at the beach below are excellent bathing facilities.

Boards and lodging can be had at reasonable rates.

This is the occasion for a fine week or ten days' outing.

No registration fee. Write Rev. H. D. Mover, Kingsville; Rev. W. E. Millson, Wheatley, or Rev. H. J. Uren, Sec., Harrow.

No Butter for Breakfast

"When I was a boy," said General Grant, "my mother one morning found herself without butter for breakfast, and sent me to borrow some from a neighbor. Going into the house without knocking, I overheard a letter read from the son of a neighbor who was then at West Point, stating that he had failed in examination, and was coming home. I got the butter, took it home, and without waiting for breakfast, ran to the office of the congressman for our district.

"Mr. Hammer, I said, 'will you appoint me to West Point?'

"No; Davis is there, and has three years to serve."

"But suppose he should fail—will you send me?"

"Mr. Hammer laughed. 'If he don't go through, it is no use for you to try, Uly.'

"Promise me you will give me the chance, Mr. Hammer, anyhow."

"Mr. Hammer promised. The next day the defeated lad came home, and the Congressman, laughing at my sharpness, gave me the appointment. Now," said Grant, "it was my mother's being without butter that made me general and President."

But he was mistaken. It was his own shrewdness to see the chance, and the promptness to seize it, that urged him upward.

He was resolute and unafraid always; a boy to be trusted and counted upon; sturdy and capable of hard knocks.