

WORK FOR THE HOLY ONES.

TIME is short, dear reader. There is much work to be done. We venture to assign some to those of our readers who are entirely holy, or groaning so to be. Take the assignment joyously, act upon it, and see if the close of the month does not reveal decided spiritual progress.

1. *In the Closet.*—Select a portion of Scripture daily for meditation; study it, ponder it, seek all possible help from commentators. Above all, upon your knees, seek the illumination of the Holy Ghost upon the hallowed page. Rest not without knowing the mind of the Spirit, as contained in that Scripture portion.

Self-Scrutiny.—Devote a portion of the hours of devotion to calm, searching self-scrutiny. Let it relate to the thoughts, the desires, the motives, the purposes, the affections. Are they all flowing in pure channels?

2. *In the Family.*—Frequent religious conversation should characterize home life. Husband, and wives should talk together familiarly of spiritual things. And then with children too. If unconverted, it should be done wisely.

Home Culture.—The home where perfect love reigns should be a place where spiritual culture should go forward with peculiar rapidity. Ingenious methods will present themselves to a mind fully the Lord's. Make the hour of family worship very attractive to children by song, and by throwing a charm about Scripture reading. Let there be profitable exposition and prayer,—breathings so ardent as to bring a divine seal upon the exercises.

3. *In the Church.*—Is your minister not outspoken on entire holiness? Make him a subject of special prayer this month. Perhaps a little fasting, as well as prayer, might be helpful. "This kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting." *Is your church very lifeless?* Are there few witnesses of full salvation? Do the fires burn dimly? Select some lukewarm or dead professor. Let that soul be laid upon your soul. Let your sympathies be thoroughly aroused. Go to God daily in his behalf. Seek opportunities for personal conversation. See if intelligent, decided, persistent, prayerful action this month will not show you have won a soul.

4. *In the World.*—Widen the distance betwixt you and the world this month. If any bridge needs burning, burn it. If the gulf of separation needs deepening, dig it deeper. Let your testimony for Christ be more positive. Speak to sinners. Each day talk to some one about eternal things. Remember, the day goeth away.—*Advocate of Holiness.*

SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

THOSE who have voyaged in summer-time upon our northern inland waters may sometimes have seen a "dead island" looming up sorrowfully in the lake. Around it the bright waters rippled and the living sunshine played; but the stunted trees stood bare and leafless, the hard rocky floor was dry of any wave; no blade of grass sprung from its sterile bosom, no living thing seemed to alight upon its bald brow. The winds whistled death through the dead branches, the waves dashed death upon a dead shore, the breeze that elsewhere sang in music here sank to a mournful requiem: all nature mourned the spot as though it lay enclosed.

And so I have looked upon unrenewed human nature, islands in the very flow and ripple of a boundless flood of glory, yet barren unto God and dead. Living waters flow around it, the summery sheen falls upon its breast, the winds sweep over it to stir it to repose, but it is *dead*,—dead to all spiritual impulses—dead as though God himself were no more.

But between these realms of matter and spirit there is one point of difference. In the realm of matter, life is the rule and death the exception; in the realm of humanity, life is the exception and death the rule.

Look again at the dead island. Although it is but a small spot of death amid surrounding life, yet what hope is there that it will ever be better? Will the suns of a hundred summers ever robe it in beauty? Will the most patient labor ever clothe the yon dead trees with summer verdure, or crimson their boughs with autumn fruit? Nay; here is a work where only Divine power can be of any avail.

Look again at human nature,—a wide expanse of desert with its bleaching skeletons and burning sands,—and at once a question of *possibilities* starts into existence: "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" To this we have a two-fold answer: 1. The Word of the Lord reveals a purpose of mercy to the world; and, 2. The fact that, amidst prevailing lifelessness, there are living exceptions,—bright oases in the desert, relieving the drear monotony of death. And so we conclude that if in one instance the dead have been made alive,—if in one spot the moral desert has been made to bud and blossom,—the question in regard to the world's possibilities is settled forever. Thank God, we are not shut up to one or two instances,—there are tens of thousands of whom it may be said,—"You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins."