

When Jesus Dwells in Us.

BY REV. ANDREW MURRAY.

When Jesus dwells in us, then we are filled with love unto all the fulness of God—the Triune God, not only in heaven, but in our hearts. Fix your hearts upon this: The Father must do it, and what the Father will do I must expect the Father, God Almighty, to give this Jesus into my heart as an indwelling Saviour; what the Father does is to strengthen us with might by the Holy Spirit in the inner man. Expect that. Fix your heart upon God. That is the one way to the Father; and as we go along step by step, let your heart be filled with this, God is love. Love is the divine omnipotence. Love is the life and the glory of God. Yes, God is love. There is the love of the Father and the love of the Son and the love of the Spirit. Let us fix our hope on the love of the Father giving the Son into our hearts. Let us rejoice in the Son coming with God's perfect love to dwell within. Let us bow in stillness while the Holy Spirit works mightily within us to shed abroad this love. God will come unto us, and will bring us into His banqueting-house, and His banner over us will be love. May God teach the waiting heart to expect this, nothing less than the perfect love of God perfected in us.

Trust.

Without its rest?
I'd rather. He unlocked the day,
And, as the hours swing open, say,
"My will is best."

The very dimness of my sight
Makes me secure.
For groping in my misty way,
I feel His hand; I hear Him say,
"My help is sure."

God holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad.
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if He trusted it to me,
I might be sad.

What if tomorrow's cares were here,
I cannot read His future plans;
But this I know—
I have the smiling of His face,
And all the future of His grace,
While here below.

Enough; this covers all my wants,
And so I rest;
For what I cannot, He can see,
And in His care I saved shall be,
Forever blest.

To be misunderstood even by those whom one loves is the cross and bitterness of life. It is the secret of that sad and melancholy smile on the lips of great men which so few understand. It is what must have oftenest wrung the heart of the Son of man.

To pray, "Lead us not into temptation," is simply to confess our weakness and prove our humility. And if we are humbly conscious of our weakness, God will not need to send us any temptations.

Go out under the sky, and the horizon sweeps about you as a centre, and the heavens bend just over your head. Change your position, and still that vast circumference is about you, and still the heavens bend above you. So forever are we encompassed by God's love; nowhere can we go without his goodness about us; nowhere can we go without the heaven of his love bending over us.

Our Young People

Tempted and Tried.

Topic for February 16: 1 Cor. 10: 13; Heb. 2: 17, 18; 4: 15.

Our Leader Speaks.

At Hampton Court, near London, England, there is a palace where Henry VIII. lived. The place is especially beautiful, and great numbers of visitors are drawn to it. One of the chief attractions, as I have read, is a very ancient and very intricate maze. This is a hedge planted in a complex pattern, and bordering walks which wind in and out, backward and forward, till they reach the centre.

It is a puzzle to know how to get to the centre, and a worse puzzle to know how to get out after one has got in. People often get lost there, and would spend hours wandering around, perhaps only a few feet from the place of exit, but quite unable to reach it.

High up above the maze, however, there is now a sort of sentry box, and in it there sits a man who keeps his eye on all the travellers below. They are quite unconscious of him or if they see him, they take no thought of him. But if he sees that a party has got divided, husband separated from wife, or children from their parent, or if he perceives some one quite worn out and weary of his attempts, then his clear voice calls: "Shall I help you? Go straight forward. Now turn to the right. Now to the left. Now go backward. Keep on in that direction. Turn the corner—" and so on, until he has them all safely extricated.

Now this is just the way in which Christ, as is said in our lesson, "will with the temptation also make a way to escape." He knows the maze of life. He has been through it all. He was "in all points tempted like as we are." He keeps His eyes on us in all our struggles, though often we do not see Him. And when we have done our best, we may always hear His clear voice offering to help us. Shall we not accept His aid? Shall we not obey His commands? Shall we not let Him lead us out of all our distresses?

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	Feb. 10.—Mastering temptation.	Matt. 26: 36-41
Tues.,	Feb. 11.—The armor against sin.	Eph. 6: 10-18
Wed.,	Feb. 12.—The temptation petition.	Matt. 6: 9-13
Thurs.,	Feb. 13.—Gain from temptation.	Jas. 1: 2-14
Fri.,	Feb. 14.—Don't tempt others.	Rom. 14: 12-19
Sat.,	Feb. 15.—Christ's temptation.	Matt. 4: 1-11
Sun.,	Feb. 16.—Topic: Tempted and tried.	1 Cor. 10: 13; Heb. 2: 17, 18; 4: 15

Some think that children should not be biased in their religious ideas, but left to choose for themselves. It a nice but impracticable theory. The truth is that the world and their own natures are full of the things which bias in the direction of evil, and as between a bias toward evil and a bias toward good we must decide, and decide very early. Anyhow, God seeks the opening bud, not the withering leaf.

Our Members Testify.

A general sets a double guard at points in his line where the enemy may make an attack. If we are wise generals of the forces of our lives, we will set double guards over those points in our character where we are likely to be attacked by the great enemy of our souls. But, on the contrary, two few of us even realize where these points of weakness are.

Next year's temptations will not be the same as this year's, but they will grow out of this year's; and the way we meet our temptations to-day is strengthening or weakening us for the fight with the different temptations of to-morrow. Every defeat makes another defeat more likely, and every victory makes the next victory easier to win.

If we had something the matter with our eyes, we would go to an oculist, and not to a doctor who had had no practice in healing eyes. If we were going through a strange land, we should want a guide who knew all its crooks and turns. So in making our way safely amid our temptations, we can go confidently to the One who was "tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin."

"St. Anthony of Egypt," says Dr. Sta'ker, "before his conversion was a gay and fast young man of Alexandria, and when he was converted he found the temptations of the city so intolerable that he fled into the Egyptian desert, and became a hermit. But he afterward confessed that the temptations of a cell in the wilderness were more than those of the city." Ask first where God wants you to be. Your temptations will always be lightened there, no matter where it is.

Prayer.

Our Father, ever give us guidance and strength for each day and hour. Enable us to stand upright in the strongest wind, and to look straight forward, even though the darkness blots out all the stars and blinds all our vision. May we say, There is no darkness with God; this poor cloud is but for a moment and must pass. Thus in the strength of Christ, thou mighty Bearer of the Cross, may we carry our life with all its burden and pain. Grant unto aged servants renewal of youth; grant unto thy youngest children conscious nearness to thee, and to all thy servants who are busy here and there, teaching them that they have nothing that is certain except that which they have given away; and thus may all life be blessed, and every day become a gate opening into heaven. Cheer the discouraged and despondent; thou knowest how sad many a life is and how weary; oh for one breath of summer wind, one look of summer light! Guide the perplexed and the bewildered, and lift up the stumbling lest they totter to their fall. Spare us yet a little while that we may recover ourselves, and smite us not down in wrath; when thou dost call for us let it be by some angel's whisper, not by some great storm. And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.—Selected.