

says, "who walk after the flesh," but for "as many as are led by the Spirit of God." Paul "delighted in the law of God after the inward man," but he could not keep it, neither can we. "We are not sufficient of ourselves to do anything as of ourselves." What a weary road I travelled seeking for a way to "walk with God." I thought by God's grace and help I could make my life right at last by trying, and I knew no other way. In the Old Testament we read "The just shall live by faith"; and faith is the requirement in every book of the New Testament. We all urge the unconverted to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved." And we take this to mean chiefly that sin will be forgiven but the Master stood and cried (Jno. 7: 38) "He that believeth on me as the Scriptures hath said out of Him shall flow rivers of living water." But this spake he of the Spirit which they that believed on Him were to receive.

Just as we received His promise "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin," and we asked for cleansing and believed that we received it because His word was true; so we must take His promise (Luke 11: 13) "If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." We must ask for the Holy Spirit to come in and abide in us in overcoming power. We must appropriate Him by faith, just as we appropriate forgiveness by faith. Believing that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him, He will come in and abide with us, and make us "more than conquerors over everything which has conquered us before." In His strength only shall we prove that "sin has no dominion over us."

Sisters, did you ever think "if the Lord Jesus was here in person, and I could talk with Him, and travel round with Him, and be one of the women who ministered to Him when He was here on earth, and who sat at His feet and heard His words, what a comfort it would be!" The Master said "while I was with them I kept them and I guarded them, and not one of them perished." But He also said, when He went away "I will not leave you comfortless; the Father will give you another Comforter." Just such another comforter as Jesus was.

Have you a present Comforter? Is the Lord Jesus by His Spirit actually abiding in you always, so that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? and for you to live is Christ? My Lord and I always together, always one? Every thought and wish one with His who is my companion and friend indeed?

If it is not so the fault is not His. He says to His own, not the world (Rev. 3: 20). "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man open the door, I will come into Him, and sup with him, and He with me." Yes, and He will never go away again, for the promise says, expressly He will abide with you forever."

Do I speak the truth? Is not this the Master's special gift to us? not forgiveness only, but His presence by the Holy Spirit, His actual presence with us to give us victory over ourselves and over the "power of the enemy." Have you read His promises to "him that overcometh?" We all hope to overcome at last, but the Lord meant us to overcome all along the way; and if we open the door, and let Him in there will be no lack of power for every moment of every day. How many of us have Him within, fighting our battles, while we lean upon His bosom rejoicing and let Him do it? How many of us are fighting our own battles, and being worsted every day? Have you forgotten that He said "Without me, apart from me, ye can do nothing? For many weary years I struggled on, sure the Lord was looking down and would help me when the conflict was too strong for me. I failed to see that He wanted me to let Him do it all: Through me, indeed; "yet not I, but Christ living in me." He says to every one of us "The battle is not yours, but God's." He says to us as he said to the Israelites coming out of Egypt, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

Is not this "a more excellent way"? There the promise stands, and has stood ever since Christ passed into the heavens saying, "all power is given unto me, and lo! I am with you always." He has not promised to give us the power, He has promised to give us *Himself*. We are not to use Him; He is to use us. "Stand still; the battle is not yours, but God's." We have wearied ourselves in vain, and spent our strength for naught.

Jesus stood and cried "he that believeth on Me, out of him shall flow rivers of living water." No paltry stream, but many a rushing torrent of blessing from the fountain dwelling within." "This spake He of the Spirit which they that believed on Him were to receive."

Sisters, how many of you have been trying to live your life and work for God without power? Cease to-day Lay hold upon His strength.

"I beseech you, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God." Hand it over to Him. This is your part, your spiritual service. The cleansing, and filling, and using are all His. Trust Him; He will do it all for you. "Fear not ye, neither be dismayed. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle. Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of Immanuel," of "God with us."

MY LORD AND I,

MRS. H. M. N. ARMSTRONG.

An Address delivered at Brantford, Nov. 14th, 1900.