

ought to know in the first place *whether* the Lord wants you to go away from home or business; and when you are sure on that point, you ought to find out *whither* he wants you to go. Your usefulness as well as your truest profit depends on where you are; and you need God's direction in choosing the place you are to be in. If you are told of God whether and whither you are to go, you may be sure you are well directed.

Guidance. We cannot claim guidance unless we are willing to be led. "But," says one, "how can I know that he will not require of me something I do not wish to do?" Alas! this is not faith. The surrendered heart does not say, "Why should I go this way rather than that?" We have lived all too long in the "why." It is a land of hesitation, or doubt, and may end in rebellion. Some have continued so long in the Why Land that the "why" has prolonged itself until life has become a perpetual *whine*. God's true followers live in the What Land. With face forward, "What next, Lord?" is their constant attitude. Brother, get out of the "why" into the "what."—*Dr. J. H. Myers, in The Transfigured Life.*

Verses 4. "They anointed David king over the house of Judah." Anointed first by Samuel in the secrecy of his father's house, he was now anointed king over his own people. At each great crisis of our life, and especially when standing on the threshold of some new and enlarged sphere of service, we should seek and receive a fresh anointing to fit us to fulfill its fresh demands. There should be successive and repeated anointings in our life-history as our opportunities widen out in ever-increasing circles. It is a mistake to be always counting back to an anointing which we have received; we must be anointed with fresh oil. When leaving the school for the college, and again when stepping forth from the college to work; when standing at the altar to become a wife, and again when bending over the cradle of the first babe; when summoned to public office in Church or State—each new step should be characterized by a definite waiting on God that there may be a fresh endowment of power, a recharging of the spirit with his might.—*F. B. Meyer.*

Verses 6. It is not enough to ask God's blessing on one who has done a kindness to us or on one who needs help. We also ought to be a blessing to the one for whom we pray. When Mr. Moody heard a rich man pray in a prayer meeting that a needy cause might have help, he is said to have called out, "Brother Blank, if I had your bank account I'd answer that prayer for yours in five minutes." We must be workers

together with God in order to ~~have~~ God a worker together with us. James, that practical sociologist, says, "If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" Sidney Smith says, "We are any of us ready to pose as the Good Samaritan if we do not have to bind up wounds and give our oil and two pence." We must do as David did—not only call down heaven's benediction, but also ourselves "requite this kindness."

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

There is much that is strange to the Christian conscience in the conduct of David. The teachings of Jesus have given us a moral sense which the best men of ancient times seem not to have had. We live in the noonday. The customs of that time, if practiced openly, would not be tolerated now in decent society. Let us be grateful for the pure atmosphere of Christian belief. Conduct on the plane of David's time practiced in the light of Christian morality is a shame beyond words to express. No one can honestly find excuse in this history for either personal or national immorality. No man can live now as David lived and at the same time enjoy the favor of God and the spiritual experience which he undoubtedly had. Jesus says, "The words that I speak unto you, the same shall judge you at the last day." Not by David, nor by the low standard of society, but by the precepts of Christ, shall our manner of life be approved or condemned. Does any one ask, Is the world growing better under the influence of Christianity? Let the present attitude of all civilized people toward such sins as David's answer.

Aside from these facts so truthfully told in the Bible history the spirit of David was, like "David's greater Son," gentle, true, magnanimous, noble. He did not turn to God for help in adversity and forget him in prosperity. The first thing he did after he became king was to ask divine direction as to where he should live. It was his habit to commit his way to the Lord and trust him to bring it to pass. He was definite in his request, and received a definite answer: "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said to him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? and he said, Unto Hebron." I do not know how the answer was given, but it was satisfactory. God has not changed. "In everything" we may make