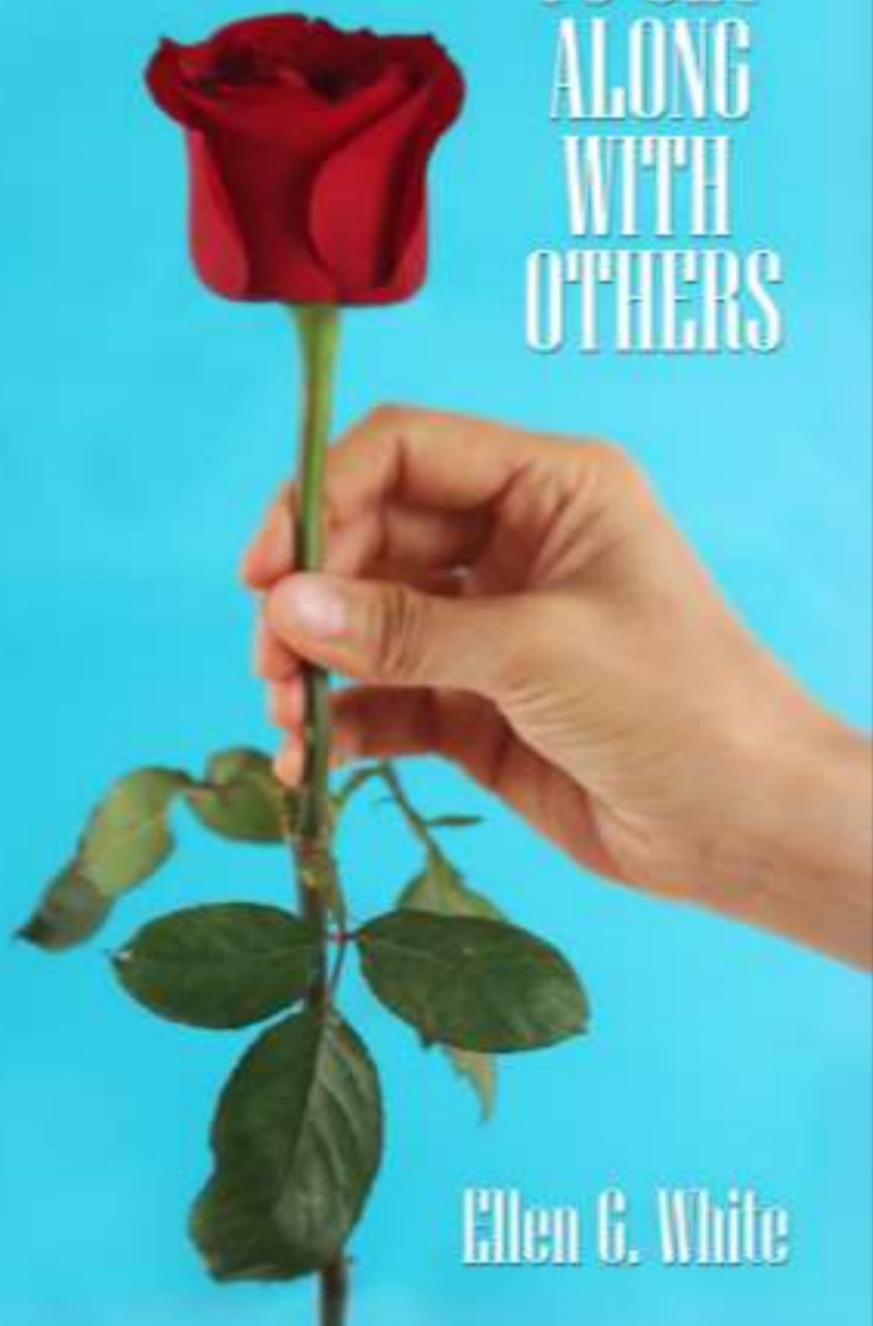


HOW  
TO GET  
ALONG  
WITH  
OTHERS



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# How to Get Along with Others

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## Part One – In Contact With Others

Every association in life requires the exercise of self-control, forbearance, and sympathy. People are so different in their dispositions, habits, and education. Each person looks at things from their own unique perspective. We judge differently. Our understanding of truth and our ideas about how we should live are not the same. No two people are exactly the same in every way. The trials of one are not the trials of another. What one person considers easy might be very difficult and troubling to another.

Human nature is so weak, uncertain, and capable of mistakes that we should be careful how we consider each other. We often don't realize the effect our actions have on others. What we do or say may seem small and insignificant to us, but if we could really see how others perceive us, we would find that the most important results for good or for evil depended on our actions.

Many have carried so few burdens in life, their hearts have known so little real anguish, and they have felt so little distress for others that they cannot fully understand the work of those who have lived their lives carrying the burdens of others. They are no more capable of appreciating their burdens than the child is capable of understanding the burden of his parents. The child may recognize his father's fears and his mother's troubles, but they appear needless to him. It is only after years of experience have been added to their life, when they begin to bear the burdens of life for themselves, that they will finally

look back on their parent's lives and understand those trials which were once so incomprehensible. It is the difficult experiences in life that give them a clear understanding.

The trials of many people who are carrying heavy burdens in life often go misunderstood. Their labors are often unappreciated until they are taken by death. Then, when others try to take up the work they have laid down and are confronted with the difficulties that they have encountered, they finally understand how terribly his faith and courage were tested while alive. Then the mistakes that they were so quick to criticize are lost sight of. Life experience teaches them sympathy. God allows people to be placed in positions of responsibility, and when they make mistakes, He has power to correct or remove them, but we must be careful not to take into our hands the work of judging, which belongs to God.

Jesus appeals to us, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you" (Matt. 7:1, 2). Remember that soon your life record will be reviewed by God. Remember that He said, "you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge... for you who judge practice the same things" (Rom. 2:1).

We can't afford to stay mad over something someone did or said to us. Self is the enemy that we should fear the most. No sin has a more fearful effect on the character than the human passion that is not controlled by the Holy Spirit. There is no victory that

we can gain in life as precious as the victory we gain over our sinful nature.

We must not allow our feelings to be hurt so easily. Our goal in life should not be to guard our feelings or reputation, but to save souls. When we become interested in the salvation of souls, we will no longer care about the little differences that so often arise in our associations with others. Whatever others think of us or do to us should not affect our connection to Christ or the fellowship of His Spirit. “For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God” (1 Peter 2:20).

We should never retaliate. Remove all reasons for misunderstanding as much as possible. Avoid the appearance of evil. Do everything within your power, without sacrificing principle, to reconcile with others. Jesus said, “if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23, 24).

If someone speaks to you in a sharp, impatient tone, do not reply in the same spirit. Remember that a “soft answer turns away wrath” (Prov. 15:1). There is wonderful power in silence. When someone is angry, any response typically makes them more irritated, but anger met with silence, in a tender and patient manner, quickly puts the fires of anger out.

Under a storm of critical, hurtful comments, keep your mind focused on the word of God. Store

the mind and heart with God's promises. If you are treated poorly or wrongfully accused, instead of retaliating in anger, repeat to yourself the precious promise, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21). The Bible says, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday" (Ps. 37:5, 6).

We so often look to our friends and family for sympathy and encouragement instead of looking to Jesus. Because of this, God often allows those who we put our confidence in to fail us, in hopes that we may learn the foolishness of trusting in people. We must learn to trust fully, humbly, and unselfishly in God. He knows the sorrows that we feel in the deepest corners of our hearts. When everything appears dark and unexplainable, remember the words of Jesus, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this" (John 13:7).

Read about Joseph and Daniel. The Lord did not let the evil plots of those who tried to hurt them succeed, but instead, He caused all their evil plans to work for good to His servants who, in the midst of trial and conflict, preserved their faith and loyalty.

As long as we are in the world, we will be confronted with people who will test our patience and provoke us to anger. It is by facing these trials with patient endurance that the Christian character is developed. If Christ is in us, we will be patient, kind, and longsuffering, cheerful under stress and irritation. Day by day and year by year, we will gradually

overcome our selfish characteristics, growing noble and heroic. This is the work God has for our lives, but it cannot be done without firm determination, unwavering purpose, extreme caution, continual prayer, and the aid of Christ. Everyone has a personal battle to fight. Even God cannot make our characters noble or our lives useful unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who refuse to fight, lose the battle and joy of victory.

There is no need to cling to the memories of our trials and difficulties, our griefs and sorrows. All our tears are recorded in the books of heaven. When we focus on the trials and difficulties in life, we forget to reflect on all the good things God has done for us. We forget the pleasant memories, the merciful kindness of God surrounding us every moment, and the amazing love of God that led Him to give His Son to die for us, which even angels marvel at in amazement. If you at times feel that your Christian life has been more difficult than others, remember that God offers you a peace that those who refuse to carry the burdens of the Christian life cannot have. There is a comfort and joy in the service of Christ that the world will never know. Show the world that life with Him is better.

If you at times feel discouraged or discontent, just keep silent. Don't let your trials cast a shadow on the lives of others. A cold, sunless religion will never draw souls to Christ. It drives them away from Him into the nets that Satan has spread for their feet. Instead of thinking of your discouragements, think of things unseen. Think about the power you can claim

in Christ's name. Think of the time when there will be no more pain or crying. Think about all the evidence of God's love for you. Looking by faith at eternal things, you can endure trials, resist temptation, and stand up under disappointments. Jesus is on our side. All that His death and ministry gained is for us.

Don't you realize that Christ treasures those who are living for Him? Don't you think that He visits those who, like John in prison, suffer and face difficulties for Him? God will not leave one of His true workers alone to struggle against great odds and be overcome. He preserves all whose life is hidden with Christ in Him, like precious jewels.

So talk about the promises of God. Talk of Jesus' desire and willingness to bless us. He does not even forget us for one brief moment. Even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances, when we choose to place our confidence in Him and rest in His love, the sense of His presence will inspire a deep, peaceful joy. Jesus said, "I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him" (John 8:28, 29).

God's presence encircled Christ, and no trial was permitted to fall on Him that God did not allow for the blessing of the world. This was the source of His comfort, and it should be for us as well. Those who are filled with the Spirit of Christ abide in Christ. Whatever comes to us, comes from the Savior, who surrounds us with His presence. Nothing

can touch us unless it is permitted by the Lord. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and problems, in short, all things – work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God’s workmen through which good is brought to us.

As we sense the patience of God towards us, we will not be so fast to judge or accuse others. When Christ was living on earth, imagine how surprised His associates would have been if, after they got to know Him, they heard Him speak words of accusation, fault-finding, or impatience. We must never forget that those who love Him are supposed to represent Him in character.

The Bible says, “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another,” “not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing” (Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 3:9).

The Lord calls us to acknowledge the rights of everyone. Their social rights and their rights as Christians should be taken into consideration. All people should be treated with dignity and delicacy, as sons and daughters of God.

Christianity will make a man a gentleman. Christ was courteous, even to His persecutors, and His true followers will manifest the same spirit. Look at Paul when he was brought before rulers. His speech before Agrippa is an illustration of true courtesy, as well as persuasive eloquence. The gospel does not merely encourage outwardly formal

politeness, which is common in the world, but true courtesy that springs from real love and kindness of heart.

No matter how hard we try to accomplish this, the most careful cultivation of our outward courtesy is not enough to keep out all the worry, harsh judgment, and careless words we speak. True refinement will never be revealed as long as self is considered the supreme object. Love must dwell in the heart. A true Christian will draw their motive of action from a deep-hearted love for Christ. Up through the roots of their affections for Christ will spring an unselfish interest in humanity. Love gives grace, manners, and beauty to those who possess it. It brightens our appearance and softens our voice; it refines and elevates our entire life.

Life is not made up of great sacrifices and amazing achievements, but little things. It is usually through the little things that seem unworthy of notice that the greatest good or evil is brought into our lives. It is through our failure to endure the tests that come to us in little things that the habits are molded, and the character is misshaped. Then, when the greater tests come, we are unprepared. It is only by acting on principle in the little tests of daily life that we can gain power to stand firm and faithful in the most dangerous and difficult positions.

We are never alone. Whether we choose Him or not, we have a friend in Jesus. Remember that wherever you are, whatever you do, God is there. Nothing that is said or done or thought can escape His attention. God, who is grieved by our sins,

witnesses our every word and deed, so before we speak or act, we should always think of this. As Christians, we are members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. Don't say or do anything that will bring dishonor to "that noble name by which you are called" (Jas. 2:7).

Carefully study the divine-human character of Christ, and constantly ask, "What would Jesus do if He were in my place?" This is how we should measure all our actions. We must not needlessly hang around those people who will challenge our decision to do what is right, or trouble our conscience by the way they act or live. Don't do anything among strangers, in the street, in the car, in the home, or anywhere that might give the appearance of evil. Instead, do something every day to improve, beautify, and ennoble the life that Christ has purchased with His own blood.

Always act from principle, and never from impulse. Control your natural impulses with meekness and gentleness. Do not indulge in careless or silly talk. Don't let crude jokes escape your lips. Don't even let yourself think this way. Restrain your thoughts, and bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Think about holy things. Then, through the grace of Christ, your thoughts will be pure and true.

We need a constant sense of the ennobling power of pure thoughts. The only safety for any soul is right thinking. As a man "thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). The power of self-control strengthens by exercise. Things that seem difficult at

first can become easy with constant repetition, until pure thoughts and actions finally become habits. If we will choose to turn away from cheap words and bad behavior, and rise to a higher standard, we will become respected by people, and beloved of God.

Get in the habit of speaking well of others. Focus on the good qualities of those you associate with, and learn to see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain about what someone said or did, praise something in that person's life or character instead. Choose thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to focus on our complaints. God calls us to think of His mercy and His matchless love so that we will be inspired with praise.

Earnest workers have no time to dwell on the faults of others. We cannot afford to live on the husks of other people's faults and failures. Complaining is a double curse, hurting the speaker more than the hearer. Those who scatter seeds of discord and strife, reap its deadly fruits in their own soul. The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling on the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by focusing on Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. As we dwell on the high standard He has placed before us, we are lifted up into a more pure and holy atmosphere, even into the presence of God. When we abide here, a light goes out from us, which shines on all who we come in contact with.

Instead of criticizing and condemning others, say, "I must work out my own salvation. If I cooperate with Christ, who desires to save my soul, I must watch my own life carefully. I must put every evil thing out of my life. I must overcome all of my faults. I must become a new creature in Christ. Then, instead of weakening those who are struggling against evil, I can strengthen them by encouraging words." We are too indifferent in regard to one another. So often, we forget that those around us need strength and cheer. Show them that you are interested in them, give them your sympathy, help them by your prayers, and let them know you are praying for them.

Not everyone who claims to be a Christian is a true disciple of Christ. Among those who claim to be Christians, and even have positions in the church, are some who do not represent Him in character. They are not controlled by His principles. Such people often confuse and discourage fellow believers who are young in the faith, but there is no need for anyone to be misled by these. Christ has given us a perfect example. He calls us to follow Him.

There will be tares among the wheat until the end of time. In the parable of Jesus, when the workers on the farm asked permission to pull these weeds out from among the wheat, the master said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares, you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest" (Matt. 13:29, 30).

In His mercy and long-suffering, God bears patiently with the careless members, and even with the fake Christians in the church. Among Christ's

chosen apostles was Judas, the traitor, so should we be surprised or discouraged to find that there are fake Christians in the church today? If Christ was willing to bear with Judas, even though He knew he was going to betray Him, we should bear more patiently with those at fault, since we cannot read the heart and do not know who will be saved.

Sometimes those who appear to be the most faulty turn out to be diamonds in the rough. Peter was impetuous, hasty, and self-confident. He often appeared to be far worse than Judas. He was corrected by the Savior more often. But he led an amazing life of service. What a testimony this is to the power of God's grace! As much as possible, we should be to others what Jesus was to His disciples when He walked and talked with them on the earth.

We should think of ourselves as missionaries among our fellow workers. It often requires a huge amount of time and effort to win one soul to Christ, but when a soul turns from sin to righteousness, there is joy in the presence of the angels. Each person has an angel who is watching over them, striving for their eternal salvation. How do you think these angels feel when they see how indifferently some who claim to be Christians treat these lost souls as we pass them by? If Jesus dealt with us the same way that we too often deal with one another, who could be saved?

Always remember that you can't read the heart. You do not know the motives which led people to the actions that you think are so bad. Many people simply don't know any better. Some who appear warped, rough around the edges, and crooked in

every way can still be saved and changed through Christ. Don't ever give up on anyone. Never drive one soul to discouragement or despair by saying, "You have disappointed me, so I won't help you." A few words spoken impatiently in anger, which we feel they deserve, could destroy the influence which should have bound their hearts to ours.

The consistent life, the patient forbearance, the spirit that remains calm under pressure, is always the most conclusive argument and the most solemn appeal. If you have had opportunities and advantages that others have not had, always try to put yourself in the other person's shoes and make an earnest effort to be wise, careful, and gentle.

In ancient societies, seals were imprinted in melted wax, but in order to make the impression in the wax clear, one did not have to push heavily or harshly on the seal. Rather, they would carefully put the seal on the plastic wax, and quietly, steadily press down on the wax until it hardened in the mold. This is how we should deal with human souls. The steady and continuous example of the Christian influence is the secret of its power, and this depends on a consistent manifestation of the character of Christ. Help those who have fallen into sin by telling them about your own experiences. Show them how patience, kindness, and helpfulness on the part of your fellow workers gave you courage and hope when you made terrible mistakes.

You will not realize the great power that your kind and considerate treatment towards those who are unreasonable, unworthy, or fallen in sin, will be until

Christ returns. So often, when we are confronted with ingratitude and betrayal, we are stirred to anger, and quick to show our contempt. The guilty expect this kind of retaliation, and they are prepared for it, but patience and kindness take them by surprise. It often awakens their better impulses, and arouses a longing for a nobler life.

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:1, 2).

All who claim to be children of God should keep in mind that as they minister to others, they will come into contact with all different classes of people. Some are religious, and others are skeptical. Some are refined, and others are rough. Some are humble, and others are proud. Some are educated, and others are ignorant. Some are rich, and others are poor. While all the different minds and dispositions cannot be treated the same, all need kindness and sympathy. By mutual contact, our minds should be refined.

Through social relations, Christianity comes in contact with the world. All who have received Christ should be a light that shines on the dark pathway of those who have not found the better way. Through Christ, our social skills must be continually improved for the purpose of bringing souls to Jesus. Christ must not be hidden away in the heart like some secret treasure, to be enjoyed only by the saved. Christ is to be like a well of water, springing up into everlasting life, refreshing all who come in contact with us.

## Part Two – Development and Service

The Christian life involves more effort than many think. It does not only consist in being gentle, patient, meek, and kind. While these graces are essential, there is also a need for courage, strength, energy, and perseverance. The path Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path, and push on through difficulties and discouragements, requires men and women who are strong.

Men and women of stamina are wanted who will not wait to have their path made smooth, and every obstacle removed. God wants people who will inspire those poor, disheartened souls who fail and fall, with fresh zeal. He needs people whose hearts are warm with Christian love, and whose hands are strong to do the Master's work.

Some people who engage in missionary work are weak, nerveless, apathetic, and easily discouraged. They lack drive. They do not have the positive traits of character that will give them the power to thrive—the spirit and energy that kindles enthusiasm. Those who wish to gain success must be courageous and hopeful. They should not only cultivate the passive, but also the active virtues of the Christian life. While they are to give the soft answer that turns away wrath, they must possess the courage of a hero to resist evil. With the charity that endures all things, they need the force of character that will make their influence a positive power.

Some people have no firmness of character. Their plans and purposes have no form or

consistency. They are of little practical use in the real world. This weakness, indecision, and inefficiency must be overcome. In true Christian character, there is a courage that cannot be molded or subdued by poor circumstances. We must have moral backbone. We need an integrity that cannot be flattered, bribed, or terrified.

God desires us to make the best use of every opportunity to prepare for His work. He expects us to use all our energy, and keep our hearts alive to its sacred and fearful responsibilities.

Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little in life because they attempt little. Thousands live their lives as if they had nothing great to accomplish, and no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate they place on themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid, He wants us to value ourselves.

Do not be satisfied to reach a low standard. We are not what we could be, or what God wants us to be. God has not given us intelligence to remain inactive, or to be perverted to various earthly pursuits. Our mind must be developed to the highest, purest, and holiest standard, for the purpose of advancing His kingdom.

No one should consent to be treated like a machine, run by another man's mind. God has given us the ability to think and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness and looking to Him for wisdom that you will become capable of enduring trials. Do not live as if you were another person's shadow. Instead,

become the man or woman God made you to be. Expect the Lord to work in you and through you.

Never think that you have learned enough, or that you may relax your efforts. The cultivated mind is the measure of the man. You should continue learning throughout your entire lifetime. Every day you should be learning something, and putting that knowledge to practical use.

Remember that in whatever position you serve, you are showing motive and developing character. Whatever your work is, do it to the best of your ability. Resist the inclination to seek the easiest tasks.

The same spirit and principles a person brings into their daily work will be brought into their entire life. Those who desire a fixed amount to do, with a fixed salary, without the trouble of being trained for new positions, are not the ones God calls to work in His cause. Those who study how to give as little as possible of their physical, mental, and moral power are not the workers God can pour out abundant blessings on. Their example is contagious. Selfishness is their ruling motive. Those who must be constantly watched at their jobs, and who only do what is given to them, are not the ones who will be pronounced good and faithful. Workers are needed who will manifest energy, integrity, diligence; who are willing to do anything that needs to be done.

Many become inefficient by avoiding responsibilities because they are afraid of failure. As a result, they lose out on the education that results from real-life experience, which can never be gained by reading and studying books.

People can shape their circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the person. We should use circumstances as tools for life's tasks. We must master them. We should not let them master us.

Those who have survived difficult situations have often become stronger. By rightly using their energies, the obstacles in life have become a blessing to them, teaching them self-reliance. Conflict and difficulty lead us to exercise our faith in God and give us determination, which develops strength.

Jesus did not serve half-heartedly. He did not measure His work by hours. His time, His heart, His soul and strength, were given to work for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He worked, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance to enable Him to do a greater work. With strong crying and tears, He prayed that His human nature might be strengthened, that He might be prepared to meet the deceptions of the enemy, and that He might be fortified to fulfill His mission of uplifting humanity. To His workers, He says, "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done" (John 13:15).

Paul said, "The love of Christ compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). This was the motivating principle of his life. If his passion and zeal ever faded, even for a moment, one glance at the cross inspired him back to action, pushing him forward down the path of self-denial. In his work for his brothers and sisters in Christ, he relied heavily on the manifestation of

God's love in the sacrifice of Christ, with its subduing and constraining power.

Paul encourages us to "look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." He calls us to obtain the mind "which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:4-8).

Paul was very passionate about making sure the humiliation of Christ was seen and realized. He was convinced that if people would just look at the amazing sacrifice Christ made for them, selfishness would be expelled from their hearts. The apostle lingers over point after point so we may be able to understand, at least in part, the heights from which Christ came to rescue us. First, he shows us the position of glory Christ occupied in heaven with His Father, and then he shows Him laying aside His glory, voluntarily subjecting Himself to the humbling conditions of a man's life, assuming the responsibilities of a servant, and finally becoming obedient to the most shameful, revolting, and agonizing death—the death of the cross. How can we contemplate this wonderful manifestation of God's love for us without gratitude and love and a deep sense of the fact that we are not our own? We should not serve such a Master begrudgingly, with selfish motives.

The Bible says, “you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold” (1 Peter 1:18). If these things were enough to purchase our salvation, how easy it would have been for Him who says, “The silver is Mine, and the gold” (Haggai 2:8)! But the sinner could be redeemed only by the precious blood of the Son of God. Those who fail to appreciate this wonderful sacrifice, and withhold themselves from Christ’s service, will perish in their selfishness.

Everything in the life of Christ came second to the great work of redemption that He came to accomplish. And the same devotion, the same self-denial and sacrifice, the same submission to the word of God, should be seen in His disciples.

Everyone who accepts Christ as his or her personal Savior will look forward to the privilege of serving God. Contemplating what heaven has done for them, their hearts will be moved with love and gratitude. They will be eager to show their gratitude by devoting their abilities to God’s service. They will long to show their love for Christ. They will covet toil, hardship, and sacrifice. They will continually strive to improve themselves. They will perform every duty as if it were for God. Their one desire will be to honor Christ, and give Him their best service.

Once, there was once a famous picture of a bull standing between a plow and an altar, with the words written beneath, “Ready for either,” ready to work in the field or to be offered on the altar of sacrifice. This is the position of the true child of God—willing to go where duty calls, to deny self, to sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

## Part Three – A Higher Experience

We constantly need a fresh revelation of Christ, a daily experience that harmonizes with His teachings. We can reach a high and holy level of character. Continual progress in knowledge and virtue is God's purpose for us. His law is the echo of His own voice, giving to all the invitation, "Come up higher. Continually strive to be more holy every day." We may advance in the perfection of Christian character daily.

Those who serve Jesus need an experience much higher, deeper, and broader than many have thought of having. Many Christians do not really understand what it means to behold Christ and be changed from glory to glory. Many have such a small concept of the beauty of Christ, and even with this, their hearts overflow with joy. Those who long for a fuller, deeper sense of the Savior's love, should cherish and follow every longing in the soul for God. The Holy Spirit works with those who are willing to be worked with, molds those who are willing to be molded, and fashions those who are willing to be fashioned. Let your mind feast on spiritual thoughts and holy things. You have only seen a very small glimpse of God's glory. As you strive to know the Lord more, you will find that "the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18).

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

Christ focused on the fruits of His mission, which were always before Him. His earthly life, so full of difficulty and self-sacrifice, was driven by the thought that He was not suffering all this pain for nothing. By giving His life for the life of men, He would restore humanity in the image of God. He would lift us up from the dust, reshape the character after the pattern of His own character, and make it beautiful with His own glory.

Looking forward, Christ saw the fruits of His labor and was satisfied. He peered into eternity and saw the happiness of those who would eventually receive forgiveness and everlasting life through His suffering. He was wounded for their transgressions and bruised for their iniquities. The chastisement of their peace was upon Him, and with His stripes, they were healed. He heard the shout of the redeemed. He heard the redeemed singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Although He had to go through the baptism of blood first, although He had to carry the sins of the world on His innocent soul, and although the shadow of unspeakable agony was thrust upon Him, still He overlooked the shame, and chose to endure the cross because of the joy that was set before Him. His followers are to share this same joy.

However amazing our life will be in heaven, our reward is not entirely saved for the life to come. Even here, we are to taste of the Savior's joy by faith. Like Moses, we are to live like one who has seen the Invisible.

Now it is time for God's church to prepare for spiritual warfare. All around us, we are confronted

with a world in darkness, almost completely given over to idolatry, but the day is coming when the battle will be over, and our victory will be complete.

The will of God is to be done on earth just as it is done in heaven. The nations of the saved will know no other law than the law of heaven. We will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving – covered with the robe of Christ’s righteousness. All nature, in its exhaustless beauty, will offer God a tribute of praise and love. The world will be bathed in the light of heaven. The light of the moon will then be as bright as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times greater than it is now. The years will pass in joy and gladness. Looking at the scene, the morning stars will sing together, the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in announcing, “There will be no more sin and no more death.” These scenes of future glory, as painted by the hand of God, should bring hope and courage to Christians.

Take a moment to consider the scene. Stand on the threshold of eternity and listen to the gracious voices of those who have co-operated with Christ in this life, regarding it as a privilege and an honor to suffer for His sake. With the angels, they cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus, exclaiming, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing... honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever” (Rev. 5:12, 13).

On that day, the saved again meet those who led them to Christ, and they unite in praising Him who died so human beings could obtain eternal life. The war is over. All the trials and suffering have ended. Songs of victory fill heaven, as the redeemed stand around the throne of God, singing the cheerful song, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,” who has redeemed us to God.

We need to constantly keep our thoughts focused on the unseen world. Through this filter, we will be able to place the right value on the things of life. This will give us power to influence others to seek the better life.

God appeals to each of us, “Come up to Me on the mountain” (Ex. 24:12). Before Moses could be God’s instrument to save Israel, he spent forty years of communion with Him in the mountain as a shepherd. Before taking God’s message to Pharaoh, he spoke with the angel in the burning bush. Before receiving God’s law as the representative of His people, he was called up on the mountain to behold God’s glory. Before he laid down his life, God called him to the top of Mount Pisgah and showed him the glory of the Promised Land.

Before the disciples went on their mission, they were called up into the mount with Jesus. Before the power and glory of Pentecost came the night of communion with the Savior, the meeting on the mountain in Galilee, the final parting scene on Mount Olivet, and the days of prayer and communion in the upper chamber.

Whenever preparing for some great trial or some important work, Jesus would resort to the solitude of the mountains and spend the night in prayer to His Father. A night of prayer preceded the ordination of the apostles and the Sermon on the Mount, the transfiguration, the agony of the judgment hall, and the cross and resurrection.

Similarly, we must also have times set apart for meditation and prayer so we can receive spiritual strength. We do not value the power and worth of prayer as much as we should. Prayer and faith will do more than any power on earth can accomplish. We are rarely placed in the exact same position twice. We constantly have new unique problems rising up in our lives that past experiences cannot help us solve. That is why we need continual guidance from God.

Christ is constantly sending messages to those who listen for His voice. The sleeping disciples could not hear the voice of Jesus as He suffered in Gethsemane. They had a dim sense of the presence of angels, but they had lost the power and great importance of the event taking place. Because of their fatigue and drowsiness, they failed to lay hold of the power that would have strengthened their souls and prepared them for the terrible scenes before them. In the same way, the very men and women who desperately need divine instruction often fail to find it because they do not carry their problems to God.

The temptations that we are daily exposed to make prayer a necessity. Dangers wait on every path. Those who are trying to rescue others from sin and eternal ruin are especially exposed to temptation. In

constant contact with evil, they need a strong hold on God, or they themselves will become corrupt. The steps that lead men down from high and holy ground to a low level are short and decisive. In a moment, decisions can be made that will fix one's condition forever. One failure to overcome leaves the soul unguarded. One evil habit, if it is not firmly resisted, will strengthen into chains of steel, binding us until we are trapped.

While many accuse God of permitting temptation beyond their strength, the real reason why so many are left alone in their temptation is because they failed to set the Lord always before them. When we allow our communion with God to be broken, our wall of defense is torn away. All our noble purposes and good intentions will not be able to help us stand against evil. We must be men and women of prayer. Our prayers must not be weak and sporadic, but earnest, persevering, and constant. It is not always necessary to bow on your knees to pray. Get in the habit of talking to Jesus when you are alone, when you are walking, while driving in your car, and at work throughout the day. Continually lift your heart in silent prayer for help, light, strength, and knowledge. Let every breath be a prayer.

As workers for God, we must reach out to men and women where they are, surrounded with darkness, sunken in sin, and stained with corruption. As long as we keep our minds focused on Christ, our sun and our shield, the evil that surrounds us will not be able to make a stain on our characters. As we work to save souls, we will find strength in placing

our trust in God. Christ in the heart and life is our safety. The atmosphere of His presence will fill the soul with a hatred of all that is evil. As we get close to Christ, our spirit will become so identified with His that our thoughts and goals will be one with His.

It was through faith and prayer that Jacob changed from being weak and sinful to a prince with God. In the same way, we may become men and women of high and holy purpose, of noble life, who will not be swayed from truth, right, and justice for any reason. Everyone is pressured with their own problems, burdens, and duties, but the more difficult your position and the heavier your burdens, the more you need Jesus.

It is a serious mistake to neglect public worship. The privileges of church should not be lightly regarded. While some who care for the sick may at times have to miss church, they should be careful not to consistently miss the blessings of fellowship and corporate worship each week. In ministering to the sick, more than in any work, success depends on the spirit of consecration and self-sacrifice. The heavier the responsibility you carry, the more urgent it is to place yourself where you will be deeply impressed by the Spirit of God. Your anxiety for being filled with God's Spirit should be equivalent to your responsibility of trust. The greater your responsibility, the greater your anxiety should be. Nothing is more important in our daily lives than communion with God. We should show, by our daily lives, that we have peace and rest in the Savior. His peace in the heart will show on our

faces and shine out of our lives. It will give persuasive power to our voice. Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will recognize that we have been with Jesus. This will give the worker a power that nothing else can give. We must not deprive ourselves of this power.

We must live a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work. The strength received through communion with God, united with earnest effort in educating our mind to be thoughtful and helpful, will prepare us for our daily duties, and keep our spirit peaceful under all circumstances, no matter how difficult they may be.

When in trouble, many think they must seek help from friends, telling them all their problems, and begging for help. Under such difficult circumstances, skepticism fills the heart, and the road seems dark, but if their eyes could be opened, they would see that the mighty Counselor of the ages was standing at their side all the time, inviting them to put their confidence in Him. Jesus says, "Come to Me... and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Should we turn our confidence from God to human beings who are as dependent upon God as we are?

You may feel your weakness and inability in comparison with the work that rests before you, but even if you were the most intelligent person in the world, it would not be enough. Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The result of all we do rests in the hands of God. Whatever lies before you, you can lay hold of Him with steady and persevering confidence.

All your business, leisure, and social affairs should be entered with earnest, humble prayer. By doing so, you reveal that you honor God, and God will honor you. Pray when you are weak and uncertain. When you are troubled, keep silent. Do not cast a shadow on the path of others, but instead tell everything to Jesus. Lift up your hands to Christ for help. In your weakness, lay hold of His strength. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, and faith so that you may see the light in God's guidance and rejoice in His love.

When we are humble and repentant, God can and will reveal Himself to us. He is very pleased when we use His past mercies and blessings as a reason why He should give us greater blessings. He will fulfill the expectations of those who trust fully in Him beyond their needs. Jesus knows exactly what we need, and He gives us the exact amount of strength and guidance we need to bless others and strengthen our own souls.

We must put less trust in what we can do by ourselves, and more trust in what the Lord can do for and through us. You are not engaged in your own work. You are doing the work of God. Surrender your will and ways to Him. Do not make a single reserve or a single compromise with self. Learn what it means to be free in Christ.

Hearing sermons Sabbath after Sabbath, reading the Bible through and through, or understanding verse by verse will not help us, or those who hear us, unless we first bring the truths of the Bible into our own individual experience. The

understanding, the will, and the affections must be yielded to God's word. Then, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the precepts of the word will become the principles of our lives.

As you ask the Lord to help you, honor Jesus by actually believing that you receive His blessing. All power and wisdom are at our command. We only need to ask.

If we walk continually in the light of God, and meditate on His character day and night, then we will see His beauty and rejoice in His goodness. The heart will glow with a sense of His love. We will be lifted up, as if we were being carried by Him. With the power and light that God gives, you can comprehend more and accomplish more than you ever knew was possible.

Those who put their trust in God will be able to say with Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Whatever mistakes or failures are in your past, with God's help you can rise above them, and say with the apostle Paul, "one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).

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