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GOLDEN THOUGHTS

on
Walking with God

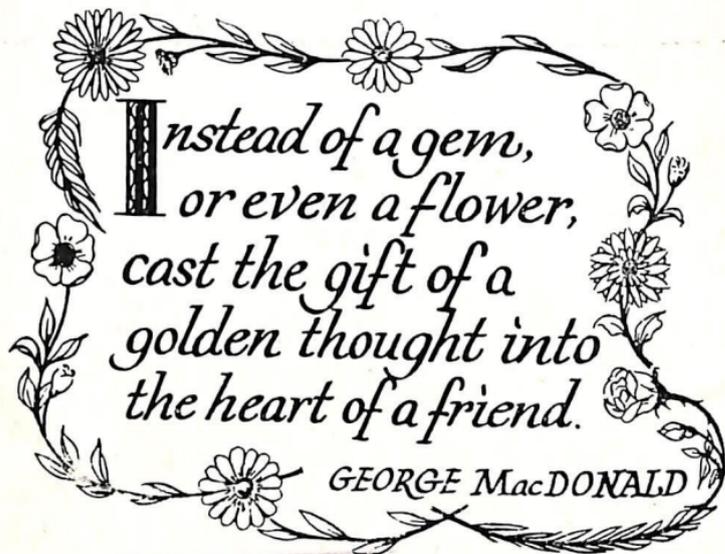
By HUDSON TAYLOR

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Golden Thoughts
on
Walking with
God

By
**HUDSON
TAYLOR**



HENRY E. WALTER
NEW BRIDGE STREETHOUSE
E.C.4

“ My Meditation of Him.”

I HAD a fine quiet day, did a good deal of reading, and had time for meditation on the Word and the matchless grace of the Lord Jesus. Oh, to be always in a humble, devout, and consecrated spirit, drawing richly from the fountain of infinite grace, continually realising that Christ is made unto us “ wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,” and that we are “ complete in Him ”.

It is joy to feel Jesus living in you, to find your heart all taken up by Him ; to be reminded of His love by His seeking communion with you at all times. He is our life, our strength, our salvation ; He is our power for service and fruit-bearing, and is our resting-place now and for ever.

He must be all in all, the paramount object of our soul's affection, or we cannot be happy ourselves or make others happy around us. Oh, that I might be satisfied, filled with His fulness !

The ambitious man may take the honours of the world, so I may but have Christ. He shall be enough for my soul ! To hear Him say “ I am thy salvation,” is more to us than anything the world can give.

“ If God Command Thee.”

WHEN the Lord Jesus gives a definite command, is it our place to ask whether it can be obeyed or not ? The terms of His command are explicit, and He answers every objection, meets every difficulty at the very outset by assuring us that *all power* is given unto Him in heaven and earth ; that He Who is true, and therefore can neither fail or forget, Who hath the key of David to open or to shut as pleaseth Him, is with us *always*, even unto the end of the world.

Had not the Lord been specially gracious to me, had not my mind been sustained by the conviction that the work is His, and that He is with me in what it is not empty figure to call “ the thick of the conflict ”, I must have fainted or broken down. But the battle is the Lord's and He *will* conquer.

I have continually to mourn that I learn so slowly to imitate my precious Master. Yet I know that I love God and love His work, and desire to serve Him only and in all things. And I value above all things that precious Saviour in Whom alone I can be accepted, and I rejoice all the more in the preciousness of Jesus, and in the riches of that grace that has made us “ accepted in the Beloved ”.

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“ His Presence.”

NOTHING can ever substitute for the presence of Christ. Whatever else may be denied, Thy presence, Lord, be given. I am sure a real Christian cannot be but miserable without it. Other helpers soon fail, apart from Him, and comforts flee. All our springs are in Him.

It is a wonderful thing to be really one with a risen and exalted Saviour; to be a member of Christ! Think what it involves. Can Christ be rich and I poor? Can your right hand be rich and the left poor? Or your head be well-fed while your body starves? Again, think of its bearing on prayer. Could a bank clerk say to a customer, “It was only your hand that wrote that cheque, not you”, or “I cannot pay this sum to your hand, but only to yourself”?

What a wonderful fact is our being in Christ Jesus and He in us. Day by day I am learning a little and a little more of it, and it is so sweet, so practical, so simple, so all-sufficient. And yet no truth makes one feel so utterly childlike. It is like playing in the shallows of a boundless ocean. . . . Oh, the unsearchable riches of His fulness!

“ The Fulness of Him that Filleth.”

“COME unto Me and drink”. Not, come and take a hasty draught; not, come and slightly alleviate, or for a short time remove one’s thirst. No! “Drink”, or “be drinking” constantly, habitually. The cause of thirst may be irremediable. One coming, one drinking may refresh and comfort; but we are to be ever coming, ever drinking. No fear of emptying the fountain or exhausting the river.

Can it be so, can the dry and thirsty one not only be refreshed, the parched soil moistened, the arid places cooled, but the land be so saturated that springs well up, streams flow down from it. Even so!

Do we not need to get alone with Him if we would be filled with the sunshine of heaven, and so become useful to those around us? Does not our strength to meet difficulties, perplexities, annoyances, sorrows of the way, largely depend on our having been much alone with Him?

The heart that trusts forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings;
A well of joy within it springs;
Come good or ill.
Whate’er to-day to-morrow brings,
It is His will.

"Who then is a Faithful Servant?"

LET but devoted labourers be found, who will prove faithful to God, and there is no reason to fear that God will not prove faithful to them. He will set before them an open door, and will esteem them of more value than the sparrows and the lilies that He clothes and feeds. He will be with them in danger, in difficulty, in perplexity; and while *they* may be in utter weakness, He will work through them in power.

They may cast their bread upon the waters, but His Word shall not return unto Him void; it shall accomplish that which He pleases, and prosper in the thing whereto He sends it. It is upon past Ebenezers we build our Jehovah-Jireh. "They that know Thy Name will put their trust in Thee."

The accidents of case or difficulty, of apparent safety or danger, of man's approbation or disapproval, in no wise affect our duty. Should circumstances arise involving us in what may seem special danger, I trust we shall have grace to manifest the reality and depth of our trust in Him, and by our faithfulness to our charge prove that we are followers of the Good Shepherd who did not flee from death itself.

"He Abideth Faithful."

"IF we believe not, He abideth faithful." I looked to Jesus and saw that He had said, "I will never leave you". "Ah, there is rest!" I thought. "I have striven in vain to rest in Him. I'll strive no more. For has He not promised to abide with me—never to leave me, never to fail me?" And, he never will.

I am no longer anxious about anything as I realise this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest positions He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient.

It little matters to my Chinese servant whether I send him to buy a few cash worth of things, or the most expensive articles. In either case he looks to me for the money, and brings me his purchases. So if God place me in great perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength? No fear that His resources will be unequal to the emergency!

"Our Sufficiency is of God."

I CAN still say—of the past, "Ebenezer-Jireh", thanks be to His grace! Burdens such as I never before sustained, responsibilities such as I had not hitherto incurred, and sorrows compared with which all my past sorrows were light have been my experience. But I trust I have learned more of the blessed truth that

Sufficient in His arm alone.
And our defence is sure.

Can Jesus meet my need? Yes, and more than meet it. No matter how intricate my path, how difficult my service, how far away my loved ones, how helpless I am, how hopeless I am, how deep are my soul-yearnings—JESUS can meet all, all, and more than meet. He not only promises me rest. He not only promises me drink to alleviate my thirst. No, better than that! He says: "He who trusts ME, out of him shall flow rivers of living water".

Difficulties greater and more serious than I have ever had crowd around me. The last few months have been of unparalleled pressure, and constant movement; but I have enjoyed more leisure of soul and rest of spirit than ever before, and more joy in the Lord. If satisfied with His will and way, there is rest.

"My God shall supply . . ."

WE have many difficulties before us. I do not see my way at all; but it is enough that He does Who will guide, and will supply all our need. We must press forward, counting everything (and that includes a great many things) but loss, that we may "win Christ and be found in Him".

The dangers and difficulties will be neither few nor small, but with Jesus for our Leader we may safely follow on. These dangers, difficulties and trials, while leading to a deeper realisation of our own weakness, poverty and need, will constrain us also to lean more constantly, to draw more largely, to rest more implicitly on the strength, the riches, the fulness of Jesus. "In the world ye shall have tribulation", but "in Me . . . ye shall have peace", will be the experience of those engaged in the work.

If it be for God's glory, for the benefit of His cause, and the true interest of those concerned, the times of greatest trial and danger will be the times when His delivering power will shine forth most conspicuously; and if otherwise, His sustaining grace will prove sufficient for the weakest servant in the conflict.

"Tribute of a Free-will Offering."

THE men and women we need are those who will put Jesus—China—souls—first and foremost in everything and at all times ; life itself must be secondary—nay, even those things more precious than life. Of *such* men, of *such* women, their price is far above rubies.

I trust we are all fully satisfied that we are God's servants, sent by Him to the various posts we occupy, and that we are doing His work in them. He set before us the open doors into which we have entered. We did not come to China because missionary work here was either safe or easy, but because He had called us.

If it is perfectly clear that duty—not inclination, not pleasure, not business—detains you at home, are you labouring in prayer for those needy ones as you might ? Is your influence used to advance the cause of God among them ? Are your means as largely employed as they should be in helping forward their salvation ?

Let us then strengthen our hands in God, by examining ourselves solemnly before Him to ascertain where we are failing, or have failed, when we shall be better fitted to determine where those linked with us have also failed. The Lord graciously enable us to do this in very truth.

"Having this Confidence."

MY hope and confidence are in God, and I seek to roll the burden of all upon Him. You and I have our lessons to learn ; and if we will learn them, I doubt not God will still further use us in His service.

It is but one day at a time. To-day by His grace, we can bear to-day's burden ; to-morrow we may be with Him where there is no burden ; or, if otherwise, He will be with us, and in His presence there is "fullness of joy", this world's tribulation notwithstanding.

We have put to the proof, His faithfulness, His power to support in trouble and to give patience under affliction, as well as to deliver from danger. And should greater dangers await us, should deeper sorrows come than any we have yet felt, it is to be hoped that they will be met in a strengthened confidence in our God.

In due season we shall reap if we faint not—this has been to me the word in season I know not how often. And the best of God's precious Word is that the more nourishment and savour we get out of it, the more we find in it. It does not fail nor weary us with sameness, however often we come to it.

“ Commit thy way to Him.”

THAT God will supply you and me with increasing wisdom and ability for the work to which He has called us, we need neither fear nor doubt.

All that is required on our part is to lay aside everything we discover to be either faulty or erroneous, and constantly to be adding to our stock of both wisdom and love. We will commit all matters to the Lord ! He is very pitiful, and will never leave us nor forsake us in our time of trial.

Our Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning, and He always provides breakfast for them, and does not send them supperless to bed at night. “ Thy bread shall be given thee, and thy water shall be sure”.

He sustained three million Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. We do not expect He will send three million missionaries to China ; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all. Let us see that we keep God before our eyes ; that we walk in His ways and seek to please and glorify Him in everything great and small.

“ We joy in God.”

IT is a bright, sunny morning, but the sunshine without is as nothing to the sunshine within. He has taught me something of what is meant by “ Rejoice in the Lord ” ; and rejoice I must, and do.

I have hitherto used the words “ Rejoice in the Lord ” as meaning in our oneness with Him, or in the measure of His grace imparted to us, or working in us. Or again, in the thought of rejoicing in fellowship with Him—in that which gives Him joy, or which is ensured to us in Him. Yet it is in Himself I am to rejoice.

We cannot but rejoice, when our oneness with Him is realised, in His preciousness, grace, love, holiness, indeed, in all His perfections. He is the same, yesterday, and to-day and for ever.

It is joy to work for such a Master ! My soul is often filled to overflowing, and it is an honour to be spent in such a cause. If the labour is great, and the difficulties numerous and formidable, the strength—“all might, according to His glorious power”—is greater ; and the reward will be so too. No service can be happier even now, but the reward is not yet, and it is eternal.

"When ye pray . . . believe."

WE have to do with One Who is Lord of all power and might, Whose arm is not shortened that it cannot save, nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear; with that One whose unchanging Word directs us to ask and receive that our joy may be full, to open our mouths wide that He may fill them; and we do well to remember that this gracious God, Who has condescended to place His almighty power at the command of believing prayer, looks not lightly on those who neglect to avail themselves of it.

Nor can prayers be discredited if offered in the Name of Jesus, so long as we keep within the extent of Christ's credit—a tolerably wide limit! That is to say, not in your own name, or for the sake of Jesus merely. If we ask anything unscriptural or not in accordance with the will of God, Christ Himself could not do that; but, "if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us, and . . . we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him".

Our profession of looking to and of confidence in Him must not be a vain one, and then it will not be put to shame.

HUDSON TAYLOR the founder of the China Inland Mission (by whose courtesy these copyright Golden Thoughts are now issued) went as a young man to China full of zeal for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. By the end of his life, the single seed he had planted in faith had grown into a mighty tree.

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