



How to Live to the Glory of God

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” John xv

Extract from a sermon preached by George Müller

Precious Lord Jesus Christ, now use the mouth of Thy servant; direct by Thy spirit Thy poor servant to bring out those very points the beloved disciples especially need to help them. Help Thy servant, and let the Word come, not in word only, but in the power of the Holy Ghost, that it shall not be forgotten to the end of the life of these dear disciples here. And Thy servant asks it for Thy dear name's sake.

“Who satisfieth Thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.” Psalm 103,5

Notice the figure - the old eagles casting their feathers; and this being done, their strength verily renewed, and they become strong and powerful again. With those advanced in years this was the case. Thus the Psalmist, looking on himself, admired what the Lord had done for him. He does not refer to food, though that is included; and for every crumb of bread and drop of water we should be exceedingly grateful; for the body is strong and vigorous through the food given us. The Psalmist meant to say that his mouth was satisfied with good things, like that of the eagle's was, through the instrumentality of good food. But more than this; he referred to spiritual food, through which his spiritual strength was renewed. Now, beloved Christian friends, this is the momentous point. There is no necessity for aged believers to get more and more lifeless and careless and worldly-minded. As the Psalmist got old he did not get very worldly-minded, he did not get lifeless and cold and carnal, but his spiritual strength was renewed. Thus it may be with us. It is a mistake to supposed that for two or three years after conversion we may be in a healthy and lively state; and after we have known the Lord five or ten years, may expect to become cold and dead and formal, and go back again little by little.

Far otherwise it may be, far otherwise it ought to be; and if not, we are not living to the praise and glory of God. The Psalmist in his advanced years was more happy in the Lord, more spiritually minded; he had more spiritual power and vigour at the end than he had at the beginning. Oh, my beloved younger brethren and sisters, you have before you, not the prospect of dull miserable days, but of brighter and happier days!

And here I bear for the honour and glory of God, my own testimony. I am happier now, after being a believer nearly fifty-one years, than I was forty years ago; happier far than I was forty years ago, than I was thirty years ago, than I was twenty years ago, that I was ten years ago. As the time has gone on, my peace and joy and happiness in the Lord have increased more and more, instead of going more and more. Why do I refer to this? Not to boast, for it is all by the grace of God, but to encourage my younger fellow-believers to expect greater things from the Lord, who delights in giving abundantly. And as you sing sometimes, “More and more, more and more,” there is yet more to come. Let us look out for it; for God delights to give more grace. It is the joy and delight of His heart to give more and more. Why should it not be? Why should we not in the last part of the life have the best things? Has God changed? Far from it. Is the Bible changed? No. We have the same blessed word. Is the power of the Holy Ghost less? Far different from that: nothing of the kind. The Lord Jesus Christ is ever ready to bless. The word we now have is the whole revelation. And our heavenly Father has the same heart toward His children. Therefore there is nothing to hinder our being happier, as time

goes with us. If we are not happier, what is the reason? There must be a reason, and we should ask ourselves, why are we not getting happier and happier?

Now in brotherly love and affection I would give a few hints to my younger fellow-believers as to the way in which to keep up spiritual enjoyment. It is absolutely needful, in order that happiness in the Lord may continue that the scriptures be regularly read. These are God's appointed means for the nourishment of the inner man. If the word of God is neglected, you are not making progress; but you are spiritual babes, and remain so. That is not all. You will become spiritual dwarfs! You will become spiritual dwarfs! Spiritual dwarfs! Instead of living to the glory of God, you will be living to dishonour Him. You see we are left here after conversion to live for the benefit of the world. Only a few of the children of God are taken to heaven directly after their conversion, but they are left to live for awhile here for the glory of God. This cannot be unless we regularly give ourselves to the word of God, unless we come to it day by day, and pray over it. We should consider it, and ponder over it in reference to our own wants. But especially we should read regularly through the scriptures consecutively, and not pick out here and there a chapter. If we do we remain spiritual dwarfs. I tell you so affectionately. For the first four years after my conversion I made no progress, because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul, I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now I have been doing this for forty-seven years. I have read through the whole Bible about one hundred times, and I always find it fresh when I begin it again. Thus my peace and joy have increased more and more. Now think of it, you beloved younger brethren and sisters in particular, and say, let me live to the glory of God. And if you have arrived to middle age, and have neglected thus to read the word of God, begin it now with earnestness; and if you thus read with prayer and application to your own heart, and seek to practice what you find, your peace and joy will increase more and more, more and more; and it will be said of you, "Thy youth is renewed like the eagle's". Thus the prospect of eternity, how bright, when we lay hold of the precious Word". May the Lord grant that we may individually be able to do so!

But are there any dear friends here who have not yet obtained forgiveness? If there are, let them now pass sentence on themselves; let them now condemn themselves as guilty sinners, and put their whole trust for salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom alone it is to be obtained.

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