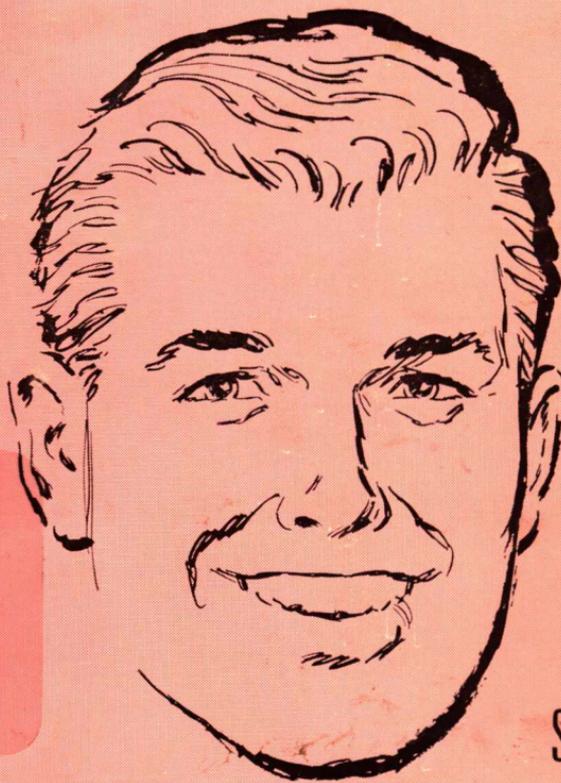


TIPS
TIPS TO CHRISTIANS



FAIRY
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CHISM

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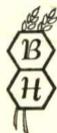
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Tips to Christians

by

FAIRY STEELE CHISM



BEACON HILL PRESS
Kansas City, Missouri

114338

FIRST PRINTING 1966



PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Foreword

Desiring to help those who have found new spiritual victory in her revival meetings, Miss Chism frequently has given a message entitled "Tips to Christians." These were more or less random suggestions of a practical nature on how to maintain spiritual life and to grow in grace.

As the years passed, she picked up ideas along the way to incorporate in this message. There was soon far more in the file than she could use. A friend suggested that they be put in mimeographed form for distribution. The ultimate result was a small booklet which became quite popular wherever Miss Chism held meetings.

This particular volume is based upon the original booklet, though the content has been rearranged and supplemented by additional items. In a way, the author is right when she modestly says: "There is nothing new here—just a reiteration of what we all know." But in the more than sixty "tips" there is a rich storehouse of down-to-earth counsel on how to become an established Christian.

We commend this practical little volume to all who are new in the way or who may be going through a time of spiritual struggle.

J. FRED PARKER
Book Editor

9-28-90 Gift

Tips to Christians

*on maintaining and
developing spiritual life
and experience*

A Life to Be Lived

The beautiful and blessed experience of heart purity is obtained in an instant, but following that moment, there is a life to be lived and a holy character to be built. God says to us, as He did to Abraham, "Walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1).

In this push-button age with its automatic controls, I fear that that spirit may be seeping into the soul. It seems to me that there is a tendency to regard the act of sanctification with a "now-I've-arrived" spirit and a "that's-it-finished" attitude! One does set an iron to the desired heat and irons on! But the possessor of a pure heart does not get the experience and then automatically let it iron out the wrinkles of life!

I have seen a housewife plug in an automatic coffee-pot and have watched it perk away until it shut itself

off. If breakfast did not finish the contents, throughout the day, upon demand, it produced a cup of piping hot, always-of-the-same-strength coffee. But Christian perfection doesn't work that way. We do not "plug in" and then go about our work, to find that, upon demand, we can draw out the grace that we always need or desire—grace "piping hot"! No, holiness is not an automatic experience! All it takes to *get* sanctified, it takes to *keep* sanctified.

The business of the one whose heart has been made perfect in love must be *to love and serve God*—everything else is secondary. When asked his business, William Carey replied, "I mend shoes for a living, but my business is serving God." Our goal should be for God to make us as near like His own dear Son as possible. Many imperfections, not carnal, remain. Willpower and grace should whittle away on them!

In his book, *The Making of a Man of God*, Alan Redpath says, "The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, the manufacture of a saint is the task of a lifetime."

Often people who profess less than we do are more Christlike than we. They work harder at the job of being Christians! We are inclined to expect grace to do everything. However, the Bible gives us no grounds for such a belief. Note I Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:7-16.

Entire sanctification, attained in an instant, is like receiving a deed to a valuable, beautiful farm, capable of limitless development and improvement. Work your farm. Purity is not maturity. Make I Corinthians 13 your standard—it is maturity. Note Phil. 1:9-11; II Pet. 1:2-11; I Pet. 1:3-9.

The Holy Spirit

"Having led the soul to Christ, the Holy Spirit now becomes the personal Guide, Teacher, Sanctifier and Comforter of the believer. He is the Spirit of light and

revelation, of guidance and of wisdom. He is the Spirit of holiness. He is the Spirit of peace, joy and comfort. He is the Spirit of love, gentleness, patience, meekness and forbearance. He is the Spirit of prayer and intercession. He is the Spirit of power for service, and the source of all our gifts as well as grace. He is the Spirit of faith and hope, enabling us to claim the promises of God, and revealing to us the glorious prospects of the future. Our whole spiritual life is nourished and cherished by His love and care; and all we are, and have, and may become in our Christian life, is due to His personal indwelling, and His faithful love and infinite grace" (A. B. Simpson).

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He has all the qualities belonging to a person: the power to understand, to will, to do, to call, to feel, to love. Hence, we are warned, "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). He is the same kind of Comforter as Jesus was. He took Jesus' place here on earth when the Saviour left. We are to treat Him as we would treat Christ if He were here.

One who acknowledges Him as Lord and Master of his life—nothing withheld—and who gives Him loving devotion will find Him to be the one great Lover of the soul, the Comforter, the Teacher; yea, the Traveling Companion who will take him safely to the home Jesus promised in John 14:2-3. The most fundamental "tip" contained in this little booklet is: "*Walk in the Spirit.*" Walking in the Spirit implies that we shall keep step with the Holy Ghost, and that our obedience shall be so prompt that we shall never find ourselves a step behind. Let us honor, reverence, love, and obey the Holy Spirit!

The Will Teamed with Faith

The extent of one's growth depends upon the application and determination of the individual—that is to say, the *will* and the *faith* of the Christian. *God, with*

His boundless grace, meets us at the point of our will and our faith—faith in God and His written Word.

“God looks at the secret determination of our wills and deals with us according to the attitude of our will toward Him” (G. D. Watson).

“He who points the stars in their courses will not fail to direct the soul which has no other aim (dogged determination) than to do His will” (F. B. Meyer).

Zoologists in the Texas Memorial Museum placed a tiny field mouse in a glass cage housing two rattlesnakes. It was intended to be their supper, but the tiny creature flew to the attack. It nipped at its attackers and jumped on their heads, causing them so much anguish that the museum staffers removed the mouse from the cage. They named it “Fearless Fosdick.” If we are to make it successfully as Christians, our will and our faith must make us “Fearless Fosdicks” in the face of great odds.

If you determine to win, on any line, God will give victory. Like the man with the withered hand whom Jesus intended to heal. The Master said, “Stretch forth thine hand.” The man could have said, “I cannot. That is what I want You to do—heal it.” Jesus wanted the response of his will and his faith. The moment he said within his heart, “I will,” Jesus supplied the strength. So, he stretched his hand forth!

Paul expresses perfectly the blending of divine grace and the human will: “By the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (I Cor. 15:10).

Further emphasizing the part which the will and faith play, note:

1. “He that is begotten of God keepeth himself” (I John 5:18).
2. “Strive to enter in at the strait gate” (Luke 13:24).

3. "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure" (II Pet. 1:10).
4. "Work out your own salvation" (Phil. 2:12).
5. "Keep yourselves in the love of God" (Jude 21).
6. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (II Tim. 2:15).
7. "He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:17).

If Paul, who was so powerfully converted and so definitely filled with the Holy Ghost, felt the urgency of singleness of will and endeavor, expressed in Phil. 3:13-14; and feared lest he become a castaway (I Cor. 9:27), *how much more do we need to take heed!*

The Christian life is a *walk*. In our walk we are assured that:

1. Our Keeper never sleeps. Ps. 121:2-5.
2. Angels have been delegated as ministering servants. Ps. 91:11.

"Walking with God means the most beautiful scenery, the most interesting conversation, the safest route, and a certainty of destination which can be found in no other way."

"Some pilgrims along the Lord's highway are merely tourists."

A dear old lady from the country went for the first time on a railway journey of about fifty miles through an interesting and beautiful region. She had looked forward to this trip with great pleasure. She was to see so much and enjoy it all so greatly. But it took her so long to get her basket and parcels adjusted, her seat comfortably arranged, and the shades right, that she was only just settling down to enjoy her trip when the conductor called out the name of her station. She had to get up and hustle out.

"Oh, my!" she exclaimed. "If I'd only known that

we would have been here so soon, I wouldn't have wasted my time fussing."

We are so near the end of the journey that there is no time to be fussing about little things.

TIPS FOR THE JOURNEY

1. Obey God Quickly.

a. Instant obedience is the only kind of obedience there is; delayed obedience is disobedience. "Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God, . . . that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the Lord our God" (Jer. 42: 6).

b. God gives light to walk in—for the next step. John 12:35. One sees clearly only for a short time. If light is not walked in, a maze follows, and then comes darkness. Finally and fearfully, darkness appears to be light! This is the horrifying end of disobedience. Read I Sam. 15:1-35. However, those who walk in the light have constant, continuous cleansing with blessed fellowship with Him *who is Light* and in whom is no darkness at all. That Light will shine "more and more unto the perfect day." Read I John 1:5-7; Prov. 4:18; Jer. 7:23.

c. "Only he who believes is obedient; only he who is obedient believes." Read Rom. 15:13.

d. He who does the will of God knows God. John 7:17.

e. Keep your eyes off feeling. Obey God 100 percent and you will have plenty of "feeling." Nah. 1:7; Prov. 1:33.

2. Distinguish Between Temptation and Sin.

a. *Nowhere in the Bible will you find freedom from temptation promised.* It is common to all—even our blessed Lord was tempted. Being tempted is not sin;

yielding to temptation is sin. Sin comes by cooperation from within the mind.

b. *Do not court temptation.*

(1) "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). In the days of horse-drawn coaches, a king sought a driver for his queen and the royal children. Three aspirants for the position were tested out on a road with a mountain on one side and a steep precipice on the other. Number One drove very near the edge; Number Two beat him by coming a little closer to the brink. Number Three hugged the mountainside and was instantly chosen for the job. The king wished no risks taken with his family.

Some people like to see how near the world they can go and not go over. The safest place in the road is close to the other side, away from the danger zone.

(2) Get away from borderline practices.

A little boy fell out of bed one night. In reply to his mother's query as to what happened, the lad said, "I guess I just went to sleep too near where I got in."

c. *Take God's thought concerning temptation.* Read Jas. 1:2-4 and I Pet. 1:4-9.

3. Always Give God the Benefit of the Doubt

In a matter of decision, if the way is uncertain, do nothing. Wait on God. Search the Scriptures. The enemy often rushes at one and demands quick action. He brings suggestions, which may even be accompanied with scriptures, to be acted upon at once. He leads to confusion. When God speaks, He brings light; the conviction grows upon one until he is firmly convinced that God is leading. It will always be in line with His Word, not just an isolated passage as is often quoted by the enemy. If circumstances are a factor, they will agree with the inner conviction which grips the soul.

4. If You Should Slip, Mend Matters at Once.

"These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 2:1).

5. Watch Your Spiritual Appetite.

✦ Leave off, without hesitation, that which dulls—though ever so slightly—the glow of God in your soul.

"The rule that governs my life is this: Anything that dims or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult, is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it" (Wilbur Chapman).

While he was in college, John Wesley's mother once wrote to him: "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes away your relish for spiritual things; whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that thing to you is sin."

6. Make No Provision for Backsliding.

a. Read II Chron. 12:14: "He did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord."

b. Early one morning, Evelyn, age three, accompanied Alice to our garden in Swaziland. En route, a shilling was handed to Alice for missionary dues. Needing both hands for vegetables, she handed the money to the Swazi tot with the firm injunction that she should hold it tightly. Alice forgot all about the dues. That night when she was putting tiny Evelyn to bed on a mat, the little one handed her the coin saying, "Here's your shilling." She had eaten, played, slept, and lived all day, but kept her charge. We need to be as diligent in keeping our spiritual vows.

c. God gives us eternal life to keep to the end. Do not treat it as a light thing. Backsliding, although so often practiced, is a crime against God.

7. Learn to Pray.

a. Deliberately set aside an hour a day, at an appointed time, for prayer, and strive to match that time with the Word of God. You will never find time—you must take it. Lo, you will find that you have more time for other things than before. God always proves Matt. 6: 33 to be true: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me" (Prov. 8:17).

b. Pray aloud if possible. Take the Holy Spirit as your Teacher. *Pray through.*

c. Aside from this set time and also aside from family worship, form the habit of praying while you are about your work. Learn to live in the spirit of prayer. "Pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17).

d. Jabez won a name only because he prayed. Read the first nine chapters of I Chronicles and note the significance of 4:10. The names of thousands of people have come down as doing nothing more than being born and having died. They are forgotten, but Jabez prayed and he lives. Prayer and faith write the record of our lives.

e. Abraham was called the friend of God. Read Genesis, chapters fifteen and eighteen. God is looking for friends today who delight to commune with Him.

f. Study the life of Jesus, noting His prayer life. Dare we pray so little when we have such an example?

g. God has secrets which He whispers to those who have time for Him. Ps. 25:14.

h. Find out what prayer can do. The late Dr. Alexis Carrel spent the greater part of his life in the laboratory studying living matter. He made the following statement relative to prayer: "Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity. It is the only power in the world that can overcome the so-called laws of nature.

The occasions on which prayer has dramatically done this have been called miracles.”

i. Pray for others. E. M. Bounds once wrote: “We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the Gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man, or sink man into the plan of organization. God’s plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than anything else. Men are God’s method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

“What the Church needs today is not more machinery, not new organization, or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men. He does not anoint plans but men—men of prayer.

“Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still. He will never talk well and with real success to men for God, who has not learned well how to talk to God for men.

“It is necessary to iterate and reiterate that prayer, as a mere habit, as a performance gone through by routine, or in a professional way, is a dead and rotten thing. Such praying has no connection with the praying for which we plead. We are stressing true praying, which changes and sets on fire every high element of the preacher’s being—prayer which is born of vital oneness with Christ and the fullness of the Holy Ghost, which springs from the deep, everflowing fountains of tender compassion, deathless solicitude of man’s eternal good; a consuming zeal for the glory of God.”

j. Beware of the sin of prayerlessness. “Something frightening is happening to spiritual prayer. Generally speaking, real prayer seems to be on its way out. One by

one, many of those who have been considered the prayer warriors are dropping their prayer life and ministry for a multitude of 'works.' Once prayer was firmly fixed in the forefront of their programs as their primary work. But now, they add one task after another to their programs, till they are unable to carry them all. Then they decide to let something go. They hold to the secondary and drop the primary things. They hold on to their self-imposed tasks and drop out prayer" (A. E. Reinschmidt, Director, Evangelical Prayer Union, Los Angeles, California).

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6: 1). How like today! A multitude will miss heaven because of the sin of prayerlessness. "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2: 4).

Read carefully Ezekiel, chapter nine. "In these words the Lord is searching out and sifting the prayer life of His people. In that day, as in ours, the people were concerned with everything but prayer. Weighed in the balances, their lives were devoid of tears and burden for the sins of their wicked city. The man with the ink horn found people eating and sleeping, buying and selling, building and planting, but he found no one in the secret place of prayer crying out for the abomination done in their midst. What must be the Lord's concern of the empty prayer rooms in this day of crisis?"

Paul Rees says: "I am afraid in its present state the Church reminds us more of an invalid under an electric blanket than it does a crusader with fire in his heart and flame in his eyes, going out to smash the devil's strongholds."

Not only has a drowsy Church in a dazed world failed to grapple with the powers of darkness as it should, but it has failed to grasp the ghastly seriousness of this atomic age into which we have been hurled. It was the complaints of the Lord that the religious leaders

of His day could not discern the signs of the times. Matt. 16:3.

The need of a spiritual awakening is desperate. It is the sort of need that Paul had on his heart when he cried to Christians in Rome: "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: . . . The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Rom. 13:11-12).

This is the Gethsemane hour of the world. Time draws to a close. Jesus comes to His Church longing that we watch with Him. But as truly as the disciples failed Him, many today are also failing Him. For we too are asleep.

Collectively and individually it is *pray or perish!*

8. Become a Lover and a Student of God's Word.

a. Eat it; chew it; digest it; hide it in your heart; memorize it. With conditions as they are today and unless we repent as a nation, the fate of other countries could easily become ours. If the Word should be taken from us, how much would you have stored away in your heart and mind? Jer. 15:16; Ps. 119:11.

b. Jesus commanded us to search the Scriptures. John 5:39.

c. Read all of Psalms 119 and notice the importance given to the Word. Verses 9-16 are nuggets.

d. It is also commanded that we be able to give a reason (scripture) for the hope that is within us. I Pet. 3:15. Oh, know and love the Book!

9. Remember the Ministry of Fasting.

Just a few of many passages on this subject are: Ps. 35:13; II Cor. 1:5; 11:27; Matt. 15:32; Mark 8:3; Luke 5:35.

10. Reorganize Your Life.

a. Our life today is geared too high for one easily to find time to worship God. The people who attend our churches are doing it. One must *take* time; hence a change of program may be necessary. Remember, *God always meets us at the point of our will and our faith.*

b. You will likely need to discipline yourself by getting to bed earlier, providing time for an early morning hour of prayer. Note Prov. 8:17.

c. You will have less time for playing and chasing about. Things which may be harmless in themselves will be dropped for those more worthwhile. Pilgrim fled from the city of Destruction, with his hands to his ears, crying, "Life, life, eternal life!" So must we. Note Acts 2:40.

We can even become too involved in church work. "Few things are more pathetic than the sight of one who has become so busy with the Lord's work that he has neglected the Lord Himself" (J. B. Chapman).

✧ Save yourselves from this prayerless, tearless, soul-burdenless, comfortable, ease-loving, pleasure seeking, self-indulging, man-exalting, God-forgetting, wicked generation!

11. Become a Soul Winner.

a. Prayer, patience, willpower, and faith will make anyone a winner of souls. Lack of concern and laziness alone can explain our fruitlessness.

b. Our Lord speaks mighty words on this line. Read Mark 1:17; John 15:1-8.

c. As truly as Jesus, being hungry, came to the fig tree for fruit, He stands before you and me, "hungry," seeking fruit. Does He find "nothing but leaves"?

"It does not take great men to do great things; it only takes consecrated men. The person with limited

powers and opportunities who consecrates all he has to God's service will accomplish far more than the proficient and capable person who seeks to do great things in his own strength and leaves God out of his calculation. Dedicated to God, the shepherd's staff in Moses' hand was greater than the scepter of Pharaoh."

12. Attend All the Means of Grace.

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:24-25).

a. Let your visiting relatives and friends know that you always attend *all* the services of the church.

b. Possess a deadly fear of becoming "a Sunday-morninger."

13. Remember the Lord's Day to Keep It Holy.

a. These are days of great laxity; we must exercise extreme caution.

b. Watch with eternal vigilance buying and selling, big Sunday dinners, studying lessons or doing other work, boisterous play, secular reading, gadding about, and so forth. Let it be a Sabbath day's journey toward heaven.

14. Find Some Form of Self-denial.

The Christian life without any so-called sacrifice lacks a peculiar kind of joy. Deliberately deny yourself often in clothes, household furnishings, social life, sleep, pleasure, or something. Be sure to do it for Jesus' sake.

"The law of sacrifice is the greatest law in earth and heaven. The law of sacrifice is God's great law. God gave Himself in His Son. . . . Sacrifice is the law of Christ. He came through God's sacrifice and He came to sacrifice. His whole life was a continual refusing of

Himself. Sacrifice is the law of Christianity. It is the law of the saint. . . . Sacrifice is opposite to selfishness. It is, 'Not I, but Christ.' Not only your old self, but the new man with all his self-assertion, egotism, and self-confidence must die" (A. B. Simpson).

15. Be a Strict Tither.

Keep books for God. Don't "guess and give."

a. God's Word is commanding and assuring. See Mal. 3:10.

b. "Stewardship is what happens to mine because of what has happened to me."

16. Be Generous.

One can give only after the tithe is paid.

a. God loves a cheerful giver. II Cor. 9:7.

b. God's measure is the one of our choosing.

c. Liberality has its reward. Prov. 11:25.

David Livingstone said, "I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance the interests of that Kingdom, it shall be given up or kept, as by keeping or giving it shall most promote the glory of Him to Whom I owe all my hopes of both time and eternity."

17. Keep a True Sense of Values.

God does not count as we do.

a. God weighs values. I Tim. 6:6-12.

"Everyone goes down to the grave carrying in his clutched hands, only that which he has given away."

I counted dollars while God counted crosses;

I counted gains while God counted losses!

I counted my worth by the things gained in store,

While He sized me up by the scars that I bore.

—BISHOP RALPH CUSHMAN

b. Beware of the deceitfulness of riches. Matt. 13: 22. One does not need to be rich to be caught in this tricky, deadly trap.

c. Loan to God. Prov. 19:17.

d. Scatter to increase. Prov. 11:24.

e. Lose to get. Luke 9:23-25.

f. Minister to Jesus every day. Matt. 25:32-49.

An orphaned boy lived in a big box at the back of a large city store. One night he was converted in a mission. The next morning as he stood on the street corner in chilling weather, he saw what he had never noticed before—another homeless little fellow, coatless, crying out his wares also. The new spirit within prompted him to give the other boy his coat.

But he caught cold and was found very ill in his box home. Taken to the hospital, he lay unconscious and near death with pneumonia. Rallying momentarily, he opened his eyes and said to the nurse, "You can't guess who came and stood beside my bed." "No, who did?" "Jesus did, and you can't guess what He had on." "No, I can't." "My coat." He closed his eyes and went to meet Him.

g. Jesus makes mention of special ones. Heb. 12: 12; Jas. 1:27.

h. Let your motive ever be to give directly to Jesus and only indirectly to the church. He is a Person who feels and manifests appreciation for what is done.

18. Recognize the Presence of God at All Times.

a. Practice the presence of God. Praise Him. Tell Him how you love Him and just see how He responds!

b. Joy comes from believing. Rom. 15:13.

✦ c. Fear to grieve the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30. He is very real and personal. It is He who makes Jesus so precious. John 14:26.

19. Praise God Under All Circumstances.

“Rejoice evermore” (I Thess. 5:16).

a. Praise changes things. Sometimes one can *praise* his way through when he cannot *pray* it through. “Praise maketh a way for God to work.”

b. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thess. 5:18).

20. Be Polite.

a. Under all circumstances be a lady or gentleman. Discourtesy from a Christian is never excusable. If employees can be trained to take all kinds of hot, cutting words and be courteous because their “job is at stake,” what a disgrace it is that God’s people often do not keep the command, “Be courteous. . . . Seek peace, and ensue it” (I Pet. 3:8, 11)!

b. Abhor thoughtlessness, rudeness, and other manifestations of discourtesy so much that, if you find yourself guilty, you will quickly and feelingly crave pardon.

“A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. You have read lives of Christ, beautifully and eloquently written; but the best life of Christ is His living biography, written out in the words and actions of His people” (C. H. Spurgeon).

c. Courtesy is not compromise. Two men shared a seat on the bus. One offered the other a cigarette. As if insulted, he bellowed, “I should say not! I’m a Christian.” Another day the same man, lighting his cigarette, offered another seatmate a smoke. The other very kindly replied, “No, thank you, Sir. I don’t smoke.” Later he had an opportunity to witness to the grace of God and leave a testimony which touched and remained in the heart of the other. And he did not compromise, but he got a better result!

d. Holiness and courtesy are not incompatible with punishment of children. In revival meetings I have

found people confused on this point. Read the following passages from Proverbs: 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17.

While firmness in discipline is enjoined, it must ever be given in the spirit of love—never in anger. Read Eph. 6:4.

Once a newly sanctified man threatened his son with a whipping if he failed to obey. The boy happily replied, "You can't do that now, Dad, because you've got the blessing."

Fortunately the father was not buffaloes out of administering the discipline. Disobedience brought forth an extra portion of the father's promised punishment, applied in a sweet spirit and with this explanation, "Son, that's a sanctified whipping!"

e. Little things matter much in our relationship with other people.

(1) Watch the tone of your voice—it may have a tendency to become whiny and grumbly, or short and sharp, or even sarcastic. Willpower must keep it sweet and kind, although sometimes, of necessity, firm.

(2) Beware of the habit of insisting that other folk do that which you wish. Allowing plenty of room for personal freedom and preferences makes for happiness.

(3) If a loved one has at last seen your viewpoint, and is taking credit for the bright idea, don't rob him of that joy. Balloon pricklers are undesirable company. More willpower needed!

(4) In conversation, learn not to contradict or even interrupt the speaker.

 (5) Don't nag. Prov. 21:9 and 19. Sometimes unsaved loved ones are driven farther away by being "nagged" about becoming Christians. Let us talk to God

much about them, but little to them. Live so as to make them hungry for God.

(6) Cultivate thoughtfulness! Eph. 4:32. Be kindly, considerate of others.

✦ (7) Guard against an officious, independent spirit. Learn to be cooperative. Donkeys carry burdens; mules balk!

(8) The acid test is our spirit. "Our spirit counts for more than our doctrine. The worst enemy of the full gospel has been the harshness or selfishness of some of its exponents" (Bertha Munro).

(9) Train yourself not to centralize conversation about yourself and your doings. Teach yourself to become sincerely interested in the other person. It takes a great man to make a good listener.

(10) Be helpful. Sir William Grey of South Africa was away from home when their faithful African chauffeur died. Mrs. Grey sent the new man down to meet the train assuring him that he could not miss her husband if he looked for a tall man who would be helping someone. All the passengers had alighted and the man felt that he had missed his passenger when, lo, at the coach door there appeared a man bent over helping an old woman who was so crippled that he must move very slowly. When he stood up, he was tall! What a Christlike mark of distinction—to be helping another!

(11) Respect those over you. Heb. 13:17. For example, comply with the request from the pulpit to "come forward"!

21. Teach Yourself Reverence in God's House.

a. Let talking before service be only that which is absolutely necessary and let it be done in subdued whispers.

b. All eyes should be closed during prayer.

c. "Business" should be attended to outside of the prayer time. There should be no communication except with God.

d. Let there be as little moving about as is possible during service. "In the period before the service we commend the keeping of silence. In the midst of our busy lives we have all too little time for silence. 'It is seldom,' writes one Christian, 'that God finds a soul quiet enough to speak to.' When a pan of milk is quiet, the cream rises to the top; and so it is with us. The silence before the service begins can be used for quiet preparation."

22. Guard Against a Dogmatic Spirit.

a. Dogmatism often leads to argument, which is bad, and to strife, which is worse.

b. "Follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14). You may have a chase on your hands to overtake it!

c. Covet the blessing pronounced upon peacemakers. See Matt. 5:9.

d. Yield. A modern translation of Phil. 4:5 translates "moderation" as "yieldingness." Where no conviction is involved, yield—yielding pacifies. Beware of being stubborn and calling it refusal to compromise.

23. Be Dumb—Not Touchy.

Years ago a girl asked me if I did not realize that a certain remark, bristling with nettles, was meant for me. Upon an affirmative reply, she said, "But you didn't act as if you caught it." My answer was, "I'm not as dumb as you think!" Then I added, "I've chosen to be dumb, rather than touchy."

24. Learn to Express Sincere Appreciation.

"Be loud in your praise and hearty in your approbation" (Dale Carnegie). By the way, it would be help-

ful to read his *How to Win Friends and Influence People* in order to receive tips on how to better represent our God. Read Matt. 5:16; Rom. 12:9-21.

25. Never Give in to Self-pity.

a. "Self-pity is crying on the devil's shoulder" (Bob Schuler). If you lean on his shoulder, you may be sure that he will instantly embrace you and speak comfortingly to you. It will be hard to free yourself too!

b. Help those around you to keep from becoming victims of self-pity.

c. If right, never fear to stand alone. Praise God, keep sweet, and refuse to pity self.

x d. Guard against the "martyr" spirit. Self loves to become a martyr. The "poor-me" spirit, the "I've-suffered-serving-Jesus" attitude is not only repulsive, but it is not the Christlike spirit.

26. Be Truthful.

What? An admonition to Christian people to be truthful? Yes!

"Gypsy Smith was right! He said, 'The whitest lie ever told is as black as the devil.' Black is black, and white is white, and there are no shaded colors in between. In fact, the smallest lie ever told is as black and as large as the devil—there are no white ones or small ones. We have lost our true sense of values; we have placed our heads in the sand of life. Like the foolish, proverbial ostrich, we think that we are covered over when we are fully exposed. When we deal in white lies, we are dealing in shifting sands and head coverings, but the heart is exposed. God's Word states, 'Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil' (Matt. 5:37). This does not mean that we should say nothing but yes and no; that conversation other than yes or no is evil. We

are instructed to communicate truthfully—without so-called white lies. Yes or no, true or false, right or wrong, black or white—there are no shaded colors in between. Saved or unsaved, hot or cold, Christ or the devil, heaven or hell—God's word has no half measure" (A. H. Townsend in the *Herald of Holiness*).

27. Be Scrupulously Honest.

a. One's word should be as good as his bond.

b. Be meticulous in all business relations. The world judges us by rigid laws of rightness. God himself is a Detailest in all such.

c. If debt becomes a necessity, be prompt, to-the-letter, in the discharge of all obligations.

d. Watch your hands, lest they get the itch of wanting too much. Churches or groups do help us when we are in need—much above our deserts often. But let us take care that this kindness does not spoil us until we think that we should always be helped. In receiving may we never be guilty of feeling "the more the better." Let us keep a sensitive conscience. Our attitude in such things speaks either for Christ (and others) or for self.

28. Repel the Spirit of Criticism.

a. Earth's most poisonous serpent can kill only the body; criticism kills the soul. A critical spirit and God's Spirit cannot live in the same heart. Heb. 12:15.

b. Watch yourself. Leave others to God.

c. Be hard on yourself; be easy on others.

d. Don't impose your convictions on others. Pray; be charitable; let God talk. God would do much more if we kept sweeter and trusted Him more instead of feeling that it is up to us to set things right.

x e. Take the blame—it won't hurt you! It will help you to see yourself in a truer light. Make criticism a

servant by letting it lead you to see as others see, and in making you more Christlike.

f. Remember there is no such person as a Christian with a grudge against another. Such a one is not saved. Matt. 6:14-15.

g. Watch for your faults and humbly own up to them. Jas. 5:16.

h. "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matt. 7:1). "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. . . . So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. . . . Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things where-with one may edify another" (Rom. 14:10-19).

29. Don't Be a Busybody.

a. "Tend to your own business," is sometimes an angry retort heard on human lips. But God's solemn injunction is, "Let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (I Pet. 4:15). That's bad company to keep! Read I Thess. 4:11; II Thess. 3:11; I Tim. 5:13.

"Faultfinding is one talent that ought to be buried and the place forgotten."

A clergyman said to John Wesley: "Church members have only turned from one wickedness to another—they have only exchanged Sabbath-breaking, swearing or drunkenness for slandering, backbiting and evil-speaking." Are we guilty too?

b. God lists seven things which He hates; yea, He says that they are an abomination to Him. We had better note them carefully: Prov. 6:16-19.

30. Do Not Defend Yourself.

✧ a. None of us are nearly as important as we think we are. Rom. 12:3; Gal. 6:3.

b. God has never told us to defend ourselves—leave that to Him. Didn't we give Him our reputation?

c. Don't chase down reports about yourself—forget them. If they are true, make things right!

d. Sincerely pray for and treat very kindly the one who has spoken ill of you, however unfair it may have been. Matt. 5:44-48.

✧ e. Keep sweet. Jude wrote to those who were "preserved in Jesus Christ." Preserves are made with too much sugar to spew! Enough of God's grace and your willpower will take out the spew!!

31. Keep Well Dressed—"With Humility."

"No garment is more becoming to the child of God than the gracious garment of humility, and none is better styled to please the lover of our souls" (A. B. Simpson).

Note the Bible's description of the Christian's wardrobe—even to the ornaments: Col. 3:12-14; I Pet. 3:3-4; Isa. 61:3.

32. Build Yourself a Castle out of Rom. 8:28.

a. There are no exceptions in Rom. 8:28. Remember it does not say that everything is for our good, but God uses every single thing in the process of working out our good and His glory.

b. Get inside the castle and read Eph. 5:20-21; I Thess. 5:15-18; Phil. 4:4. The strongly fortified castles of medieval days have nothing on your castle!

c. "The demons of hell are fighting a losing battle if the individual gives God cooperation."

33. Boast Not.

a. "Say much of what the Lord has done for you but little of what you have done for the Lord."

b. Notice John 7:18; Rom. 3:27; Gal. 6:3; Eph. 2:8-10; I Cor. 2:1-5.

c. Paul glories in many things: Gal. 6:14; II Cor. 11:23-33; 12:6-10; Phil. 2:2-5.

d. Learn true humility. Prov. 16:18-19; 29:23; Isa. 57:15.

34. Don't Advertise the Devil in Public.

a. If you feel you must talk of the power and works of the archenemy of Jesus Christ, wait until you also have a testimony to exalt the God of all grace for victory which He has given. II Cor. 2:14; John 16:33.

b. Diabolical though the devil is, he is not responsible for everything attributed to him. We have a habit of laying on him whatever crosses our wishes.

c. Change what can be changed. For what you can't change, apply Rom. 8:28.

d. Satan has no power over one of God's children unless God permits it and even then God sets the boundary beyond which Satan cannot go. See Job 1:12; 2:1-10.

35. Never Doubt God's Love and Wisdom.

a. "He is too wise to err and too good to be unkind."

b. "God may be slow, but never late." Could the God of the sparrows forget?

c. Trust His silence. Isa. 48:17.

d. Our clocks may run on "fast time," but His clock is always standard time and will strike on the dot.

"The God whose universe is timed to exact regularity is not going to be slipshod with me."

e. The British government sends official communications marked with a big "O.H.M.S."—"On Her Majesty's Service." Ah, yes, let us recognize that on all the common, mundane tasks of life there is the "O.H.M.S."—"On His Majesty's Service."

f. A man who, in African parlance, "had not quite all his birds" was wont to open his Bible and take whatever verse his eyes happened to fall upon as God's message to him. One day he read, "And it came to pass." He was puzzled, and several times repeated aloud the words. Finally, he joyously exclaimed, "Oh, I see! It came to pass—it didn't come to stay!" This is a fine attitude for us to take about any unpleasant situation.

✦ g. Trust God and be patient. If you have prayed through about a matter, keep still and wait for God to work it out. Don't you try to do it yourself—you will hinder or spoil His work. Stand by like a loyal, loving soldier until He works it all out.

36. Keep Your Eyes off People.

a. Do everything *for* Jesus and only *to* people. Do this and people will never trouble you. If you seek approval, commendation, and appreciation from fellow travelers, you will often be disappointed. But if you keep those two prepositions "for" and "to" in the right place, you will always be "well paid" and appreciated, and your service will be characterized by a love and freedom that is found nowhere outside of Jesus Christ.

✦ b. There is a sweet and glorious deliverance from people—what they do or what they think. More will-power is needed, to be matched by grace!

God had blessed the labors of a pastor and his wife in a small, growing, home mission church. But their sorely needed money often reluctantly went into keeping their old car in running condition. Sub-zero weather

struck that area. Each morning the car would not start! For enough of a push to get it in a going mood, a big dollar had to come from the poor preacher's pocket. To try to save that expenditure he arose during the night and gave the car an engine-warming experience. Then, lo, that proved insufficient. He would have to get up twice! At this stage the sympathetic wife wrote her mother, "Who wants to get up twice every night in twenty-below weather to start an old car?"

At once the thought came to me, It all depends on whom he is starting the car for. If it is being done for Jesus, who would not joyously jump out of a warm bed and rush out to start the old car for Him?

37. Train Yourself to Be a Good Soldier.

- a. Expect conflict; endure hardness. II Tim. 2:3.
- b. Be strong, watch, and be charitable. I Cor. 16:13-14; Rom. 8:31-32; Eph. 1:17-19.
- c. Learn contentment. Phil. 4:11-13.
- d. Discover the joys of meditation. The tempo and tenseness of living in this age are robbing people of periods of helpful quietness. Gen. 24:63; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; 5:1; 19:14.
- e. Perfect victory is promised to God's soldier. I Cor. 12:1-10; Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:9-14.
- f. "There is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock" (Exod. 33:21).
- g. Learn by heart and practice. I Thess. 5:12-24.

38. Seek Not Happiness for Happiness' Sake.

"And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not" (Jer. 45:5).

- a. Seek God and His will first. Matt. 6:33.
-  b. Seek to bring happiness to others and, lo, you will have found it for yourself!

39. Teach Yourself to Forget the Unpleasant and to Remember the Commendable.

- a. Remember to forget!
- b. Study carefully Phil. 4:8. Learn it. It's a key to a lovely world. "Think on these things."

40. Walk Circumspectly.

Read Eph. 5:15-21.

- a. The word "circumspect" means to watch with utmost care, looking in all directions, as though danger lurked at every move—and it does!
- b. Bitterness may reenter a pure heart. Heb. 12:15.
- c. Remind yourself of the seven things hated by God. Prov. 6:16-19.

41. Beware of Lightness of Conversation.

- a. Life today seems to be one big joke and people vie with each other in telling funny stories. A sense of humor is wholesome and commendable but to be always trying to say cute things or to tell jokes is *not* becoming to godliness or conducive to spirituality.
-  b. Foolish talking keeps bad company. Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 4:6.
- c. In conversation, reverently weave in God and His power and works. Wesley advised interspersing prayer often with conversation.

42. Strive Desperately to Master Your Tongue.

- a. Struggle as wholeheartedly as a drowning man would to save his life. The tongue has slain thousands. Prov. 13:3; 18:21.
- b. Study the third chapter of James.

43. Prepare Every Day to Grow Old!

a. Uncle Buddie Robinson used to talk about growing old gracefully. His ambition was to be a "sweet old man," and how he did succeed! His secret was: "If you want to be a sweet old man, be a sweet young man."

♥ b. Nip the cranky, faultfinding spirit in the bud.

c. Browning said;

Youth shows but half.

Trust God sees all, nor be afraid.

d. Fear not the "western slope" of life. Read Isa. 46: 4; Ps. 37: 25.

44. Learn to Relax in God.

a. Matt. 6:24-34 proves conclusively that God would have us live trustingly and happily without anxiety or fear.

b. His command is, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Pet. 5:7). His goal for us, "I would have you without carefulness" (I Cor. 7:32).

c. Spirituality, the order is: (1) facts, (2) faith, (3) feeling. When the facts do not change I can know that I am wholly and obediently God's own property—and God never changes. With such assurance, faith is intact. Feelings come and go.

d. Read Heb. 4:9-11.

45. Believe God!

a. God's definition of faith is given in Heb. 11:1.

b. George Mueller's definition was: "Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in His Word is true, and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. This assurance, this reliance on God's Word, this confidence, is *faith*."

c. Faith is a law. Rom. 3:27. Take a concordance and look up "faith." Ponder the great subject. It's a key to successful Christian living.

d. "According to your faith, be it unto you." We are spiritual paupers when we could be millionaires. For, "Whatever your faith says God is, *that He will be.*"

e. Rom. 15:13 assures one of personal victory and Matt. 21:22 gives the scope of achieving faith!

f. Dr. J. G. Morrison used to say that all most Christians do is to keep themselves alive with tea and toast, made by the faith wire, when God would have them pull an engine and loaded cars.

g. God is still writing the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Get in!

h. "When fear knocks at the door of the heart, send faith to open it and you will find that there is no one there."

46. Make Love Your Weapon.

a. Serve with love. Gal. 5:13-16.

b. Let love increase. I Thess. 3:12-13.

c. Be harmless. Matt. 10:16; Phil. 2:13-16.

d. Under no consideration, at any time, let any feeling contrary to love find lodgement in your heart.

47. Avoid Cliques.

a. God's picture of His family is found in Col. 3:13-16. Give special attention to those apt to be neglected.

b. Go around drawing circles:

*He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.*

—EDWIN MARKHAM

48. Befriend the One Who Needs a Friend.

a. In this world where weakness and sin abound, It is not uncommon for a fellow Christian to stumble and fall. Such a person needs prayerful, sympathetic help.

b. In helping one who has stumbled there are two attitudes to avoid:

(1) The spirit of "I never would have done such a thing," or the holier-than-thou attitude.

(2) The failure to recognize the wrong done, hence glossing it over. Sin is sin and it brings death. We must fear it and hate it, yet we must love the sinner and tenderly get him back under the Blood.

c. Spiritual casualties are far too high in the Church. Instead of falling into the tender care of Good Samaritans, many times one who has been defeated falls among thieves who strip him of his raiment, wound him, and depart, leaving him half dead. And all too frequently we find these "thieves" within the ranks of the Church.

d. God tells us exactly the procedure to follow:

(1) "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:1-2).

(2) "Let brotherly love continue. . . Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body" (Heb. 13:1-3).

e. Note Jesus' example.

(1) The woman at the well. John 4:6-42.

(2) The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:30-37.

(3) The ninety and nine. Luke 15:4-7.

f. Love will win.

(1) "Above all things have fervent charity [love] among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (I Pet. 4:8).

(2) "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it" (Song of Sol. 8:7).

g. Make it just as hard as possible for a fellow Christian to become discouraged and make it as easy as possible for everyone to get to heaven. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24).

49. Beware of Being Small-souled.

Doggedly and constantly cultivate "bigness."

a. Sometimes a natural disposition makes it easier to lean toward jealousy and self-glorification. One must fight hard, then grace will prove its wonders.

b. Here is a fair test: Can you rejoice in the success of one who has followed you in any phase of church work? You failed but your successor came along and did what you could not do. If you feel irked, don't be "little," and try to justify your failure. Suppose one sings or plays better than you, hence is chosen and praised more than you are. Does it grate? Keep yourself at the foot of the Cross and work. Willpower and grace will enable you to sincerely "rejoice with them that do rejoice" (Rom. 12:15).

c. Do not try to hold to yourself those whom you have once taught or led. Be "big"! Free them with all your heart to love and appreciate others.

On the other hand, perhaps it becomes your lot to labor with those who are devoted to a former worker. Free them to love that one still. Don't be "little." Those who love others will love you too providing you act as you should. Love must be won—it is not transfer-

able! Win it, not by crowding some other one out of the heart, but by making a place beside him for yourself. The heart is big and there is room for everyone. Nothing wins love faster than "bigness."

50. Learn the Other Person's Viewpoint.

a. Work at the job until you become skilled in that noble and rare art.

b. Make allowance for differences in background, disposition, personality, and so forth.

c. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

51. Make Yourself Easy to Get Along with.

It is an art to live with people and to work happily with them. Often it will require conscious and pain-taking effort on your part. But the "overtime" you put in will pay you much more than is measured in "time and a half."

52. Keep Humble.

a. Jesus puts us at the bottom—as servants. Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:7.

b. There is no "going up" in Jesus Christ, but rather, progress is ever downward—in humility, meekness, and self-abnegation. Isa. 57:15; Ps. 51:17.

c. We need constantly to guard against the spirit of kingship. It is subtle and even the church world offers us a throne. It is well to check one's spirit often. Do I have or seek a kingdom? Or am I "always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh"? (II Cor. 4:11) See also John 5:41, 44.

In other words, am I a *prisoner* of Jesus Christ, a *servant* (Eph. 3:1), and a *love slave* (Exod. 21:5-6)? Or am I seeking to be a king?

d. Jesus met this temptation in the wilderness. With great subtlety the same enemy appeals to His followers today.

53. Be Amenable to Authority.

a. God says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves" (Heb. 13:17).

b. It is necessary and proper to have organizations but ever realize that we must look primarily to God and trust Him to rule and overrule. God will never fail one who thus trusts Him. There is a great secret of spiritual victory right there!

c. Beware of an "independent spirit." We can't "go it alone."

54. Remember God and the Church Owe Us Nothing.

a. We have put our all on the altar of God for life—to be used or not used, according to His wisdom and choice. A talented person often finds it hard to believe that God would pass by such valuable gifts as he has to offer. God is probably letting that ability "lie idle" for a time, while He seeks to develop a sweet, submissive spirit within the person. This is infinitely more valuable to Him than many sparkling talents.

b. God will keep His sweet-spirited servants busy. God will ever "place" His worker providing he keeps willing to accept His choice. It is only when we get too big to take a small work that we get too cumbersome for God to handle. Then one blames the church for not giving him work!

True, the "field" will eventually lessen in scope due to the declining faculties and the decaying earthen vessel, but, "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing" (Ps. 92:14).

55. Try to Become an Effective Altar Worker.

a. Fill your mind with promises which can be quoted verbatim. Have your Bible handy with the passages underlined.

b. Pray until you touch God, thus creating an atmosphere of faith for the seeking soul!

c. Don't talk much to the seeker. Let God talk. Sometimes a few remarks do help a soul. Counsel may be needed after a period of prevailing prayer.

d. Be guided by the Holy Spirit.

e. Urge the seeker to pray. Be gentle; be courteous.

f. Be careful about telling him your experience; get him to look to God. Sometimes, however, God may lead you to tell how He dealt with you.

g. The future of our church is settled at the altar.

h. Be dead sure that your life is above reproach. Frequently seekers are hindered by not having confidence in the one trying to help them.

56. Beware of a Sectarian Spirit.

a. Denominational loyalty is very natural and most commendable. And it is also wholly compatible with a deep appreciation of, and genuine fellowship with, the Blood-washed of all other groups.

b. In Jesus' day and among His inner circle before Pentecost, He found and condemned the selfish, egotistic spirit. Read Luke 9:49-54.

c. Many times the Holy Spirit is grieved and hampered in His work because of our "spirit" too. Having a prejudiced love does not mean that we are more loyal to our church. The fact is that this may prove an unchristian attitude which actually does harm to our denomination in the eyes of others.

57. Live Recklessly.

Throw yourself away, recklessly, to God. God will do much for and through the one who has hopelessly, irrevocably, abandoned himself to the Lord.

"I would sooner have a few dare-devil, care-for-nothing and nobody soldiers, aflame with love for Christ and a desire for death for Christ, than a million workers just ten per cent below that standard. When will His people take the war of God seriously? Every Christian who is a 'man' and not a 'sham' ought to be in it with a glorious disregard of the cost and consequences, determined to win or die in the attempt; and over-age or cripples, ought to be wrestling and slaving, saving and giving to supply the sinews of war" (C. T. Studd).

58. Expect the Soon Coming of Jesus.

Peter's words are timely: II Pet. 3:10-13.

Speaking of the hour of His returning, Jesus said in Luke 21:34-36: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence and drunkenness or the anxieties [cares] of this life, and that day come upon you, suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all the dwellers on the face of the whole earth (Isa. 24:17). Beware of slumbering; at all times pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth).

59. Remember God Has the Answers.

Until that day of His return, knock out all secondary causes—let all go right back to Him. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

A little girl, not too bright, wrote her examination with a single answer carefully written after the number of each question: "I do not know the answer." Ten times she wrote that one sentence, then she added a

postscript: "But I sure do love my teacher." Questions often come to us as to why this must come and why that should be our portion. Along life's way we must remember, "I do not know the answer, but I sure do love my Teacher."

60. Die Daily.

After the death of sin and self there remains in the purified heart a fruitful field for much development. Paul happily proclaims the crucifixion of the former sinful self in Gal. 2:20. Concerning the remaining self he says, "I die daily" (I Cor. 15:31). We cease dying to this self only at the moment we breathe our last. The greater the death to self, the more the soul comes to bear the image of Christ. An unknown writer said:

"We must be subdued in our hearts, in our wills, in our words, in our tempers, in our manners; subdued through and through so thoroughly that we will be flexible to all His purposes and plans. We must be so subdued that harshness, severity, criticism, laziness, impetuosity and all wanting our own way even in religious matters, must be subdued out of us. We must be subdued, not merely in our own opinion, nor merely think ourselves subdued, but subdued so perfectly that the all-seeing eye of God can look us through and the omniscient One knows that we are subdued. God must conquer the man that He can trust with His great thoughts and plans.

"The Lord will begin to subdue us with gentle means, and if we sink lovingly and promptly into His mind, the work will be done, but if we have flint or iron in our nature (altho sanctified) He will use heroic means and put us beneath the millstones, and grind us to powder until He can mould us without resistance to His purpose. The greatest difficulty in the way of God's using His servants, even His zealous, and sometimes sanctified ones, is that they are not perfectly, universally and constantly subdued under the power of God.

"We must be so subdued as to stop meddling with other people's matters that God has not entrusted us with, so subdued as not to be calling God's servants hard names, and thrusting at Christians who are doing what they can in their various fields for the Master; so subdued that we can hold our tongues, and walk softly with God, keep our eyes upon Jesus, attend to our own work, and do God's will promptly and lovingly, glad to have a place in His kingdom and to do a little service for HIM.

"Oh! it is grand to be absolutely conquered by the Holy Ghost, and work with Him in humility, without stumbling over others, without religious peevishness and bend with every plan that God gives us."

Jesus' words are magnificent in John 12: 24-25.

In the room of a new university student there hung a small motto, "I am third." An inquiry as to what it meant brought this explanation, "God is first; others are second; I am third." That requires willpower.

61. Be Known for Your Spirit of Love.

All the foregoing tips are subject matter for much "work" toward the highest of all degrees—Doctor of Love. A few more suggestions right to the point.

- a. Keep paying your standing account. Rom. 13: 7-8.
- b. Ponder on Rom. 14: 3-4, 7-8, 10, 12-13, 15, 19, 20-22.
- c. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: in honour preferring one another" (Rom. 12: 10).
- d. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour" (Rom. 13: 10).
- e. "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification" (see Rom. 15: 1-3).
- f. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). What a measure!

g. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16).

h. Watch your spirit. We may strive for the standards of the church—as we all must do—but we can contend for them with such a harsh, uncharitable, and pharisaical spirit that we hopelessly and disgracefully fail to manifest the standard of His Church—perfect love.

Remember the twofold commandment of Jesus:

(1) "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

(2) "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
Read Matt. 22:37-39.

i. When one has learned in heart and practice to carry out the two commandments of Jesus which embody that matchless third one, he shall have merited the Doctor of Love degree, and it will be conferred upon him again and again by those who are fortunate enough to pass his way.

A poor little boy with a basket of apples, in the jostle of a crowded street, had the basket knocked out of his hands. Tearfully and with great difficulty he sought to recover the fruit while hurrying pedestrians kicked the rolling apples along. Finally a kind man joined him in his wearisome task. Observing gratefully at last that his basket was filled with the coveted fruit, he looked up into the face of his benefactor and asked, "Mister, are you Jesus Christ?"

There are few people who do not, some time or other, need help in picking up their "apples."

G. D. Watson wrote this meaningful exhortation: "What is the sweetness of love? It is love made perfect and filling, enlarging and overflowing the breast; love pushing its tidal wave up into the intellect and will, deluging all the mental faculties with its delicious current; love filling the tongue, selecting the fittest words; sweet-

ening the voice, or else holding it in precious silence; love that obeys God in everything, and yet selects the very humblest and sweetest way of doing it.

“It is love that conceals all its pains in the bosom of Jesus, and gives its sunshine to others; love that can toil hard all day without appreciation or reward, except to sleep at the Master’s feet at night; love that may have those who are above it in office or wealth or learning to treat it with injustice, neglect, or sarcasm, and say nothing about it, but receive it lovingly as strokes from its Father’s hand; love that can sow seed amid pains, persecutions, and tears, and willingly have another to reap all the harvest and praise.

“It is love that follows wicked souls to the gates of hell, and seeks to alleviate, to reduce their sufferings, even though it cannot save them from woe; love that studiously seeks to conceal itself and exhibit Jesus; that exhausts every art in its reach to populate heaven, to purify and brighten earth—and yet asks no pay except a larger increase of *love*.

“Is this a hard saying to our hearts? Do these tests seem severe? Remember that as long as we persist in keeping to the middle of this stream of love, we can never touch the hard shores and sharp points of severity. *Pure*, inimitable, lowly love stimulates its own toils, cures its own pains, and is its own reward. It is the most saintly choice of the will.”

62. Refuse to Look at Second Causes.

The secret of Hudson Taylor’s rest of heart, amid such tempests of hate, was his refusal to look at second causes. His times were in God’s hands. He believed that it was with God and God alone he had to do. This is strikingly brought out in his article entitled “Blessed Adversity.” With the experiences of Job as his text, he wrote:

"Even Satan did not presume to ask God to be allowed himself to afflict Job. In the first chapter and the eleventh verse he says: 'Put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.' Satan knew that none but God could touch Job; and when Satan was permitted to afflict him, Job was quite right in recognizing the Lord himself as the Doer of these things which He permitted to be done.

"Oftentimes shall we be helped and blessed if we bear in mind that Satan is servant, and not master, and that he and wicked men incited by him are only permitted to do that which God by His determinate counsel and foreknowledge has before determined shall be done. Come joy, or come sorrow, we may always take it from the hand of God.

"Judas betrayed his Master with a kiss. Our Lord did not stop short at Judas, nor did He even stop short at the great enemy who filled the heart of Judas to do this thing; but He said: "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

"How the tendency to resentment and a wrong feeling would be removed, could we take an injury from the hand of a loving Father, instead of looking chiefly at the agent through whom it comes to us! It matters not who is the postman—it is with the writer of this letter that we are concerned; it matters not who is the messenger.

"We conclude, therefore, that Job was not mistaken, and that we shall not be mistaken if we follow his example, in accepting all God's providential dealings as from himself. We may be sure that they will issue in ultimate blessings; because God is *God*, and therefore 'all things work together for good to them that love' Him."

63. Don't Let the "Ifs" in Life Throw You.

It is easy to charge our spiritual failures to external forces—the circumstances with which we are surrounded, or our "unfortunate" personality makeup. Actually

these adverse circumstances should constitute a challenge to us to rely more upon God. Rev. M. Bottome referred to these problems as the "ifs" of our lives. These "ifs," he said, need to be displaced by God's great "if"—"If thou canst believe, all things are possible" (Mark 9:23). This is what he wrote:

"'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' And He could have been there; He was not far away. He knew all about it, and He let him die. I think it was very hard for that woman. She loved Him though, and she fell down at His feet when she said, 'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' Then you know she wept; and it is written that the Lord Jesus was 'troubled.' I think He is troubled now in such cases, for He is what He was.

"I have come to think that there is an 'if' in every life. The person may not tell it; but it is here. It is something that God could have made different, if He had chosen, because He has all power; and yet He has allowed that 'if' to be there.

"I do not discount the 'if' in your life. No matter what it is—whether it is in your circumstances, or in your makeup, or in your mental nature. How many say, 'If I were not as I am!' or, 'If my circumstances had been different!' If! If! If!

"Come to the Lord Jesus with your 'if' and let Him say to you what He said to Mary. He met her 'if' with His 'if'—'Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?' The glory of God is to come out of the 'if' in your life. There are terrible 'ifs' in some lives.

"Now there are some who long ago believed fully in the Lord Jesus, and took the opportunity of the 'if' in their lives, and turned the stream in the direction of usefulness.

"Perhaps you have almost forgotten the 'if' in your life. If so, it will be profitable for you to look at it a

little while, and see how wonderful was the stream from the source of your 'if.' . . .

"A woman once said to me, "If my family were not as they are—my husband is so against anything that is truly Christian, and my children would all make sport of me if I attempted anything in the way of peculiar devotion to God. Oh, if you knew my circumstances!" With an impulse that I was so glad of afterward, I said to her, 'Never mind your husband; never mind your children; take God in between you and your husband; put God between him and me.' She determined to do it.

"'Next morning,' she afterwards told me, 'when I went down to breakfast, there was my husband. He almost always found fault at breakfast about something. I looked at him and thought, It does not make any difference what he says, I have God between him and me.' That woman lived to be a power in her family. When I heard last, nearly every child (there was a large family) was converted. Do not be thinking of your 'if.' Make a power out of your 'if' for God.

"If I were this, If I were that, If I had talents I would . . . If! If! If! Oh, listen to Christ's IF. 'If thou canst believe, all things are possible.' IF we believe, it is a very wonderful thing. Faith carries a whole life with it.

"'If'—do you know how often you say it or think it? Will you not take the other way and hear Him say His 'if'? Only believe. Step out and say, 'Out of the "if" in my life is to come my grandest lifework for God.'

"It was the dream of St. Paul's life to preach Christ at Rome, the center of civilization. He dwelt in Rome, chained to an uncongenial companion and shut up in that hired house. But he wrote letters from Rome! Letters from Rome! Have you sent any letters from your Rome? Have you sent any letters out from your 'if'? Have you said, 'Because I lack, there must be very many others

who lack along this line, and so I will go right along this line, and I must triumph'? . . .

"Face the 'if' in your life; and now, standing in the presence of Christ, say, 'Nobler, more useful, will I be because of my "if." If Thou hadst chosen, it could have been different; but Thou didst not. Now Thou art saying to me, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible"; and step out on the possibilities for time and the possibilities for eternity.'"

64. Rely on God, Not Yourself.

Although so much emphasis has been placed on the will, I wish to guard carefully the fact that salvation can never be earned or worked out. It is a free gift; it comes by revelation. See Rom. 6:23; Gal. 1:12. We must never for a moment lose sight of the fact that Jesus Christ paid it all. We are, and shall ever remain, sinners saved by grace through faith. Our song throughout endless ages will ever be redemption's song.

The tendency of this age is to humanize God and practically to worship man and his great power. We must not fall into the terrible error of stressing too much our own efforts in getting or keeping salvation. The more we magnify the Blood and recognize Christ's vicarious death for us, the more our Father is pleased and the more humble and victorious we become.

a. Read Isaiah 53; I Pet. 1:3-18; Heb. 9:11-28.

b. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:13-14).

c. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

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BV4510.2.C567T5 1962
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A compendium of practical counsel to young Christians and struggling ones alike who need help on how to maintain and develop spiritual life and experience. These sixty-four random, down-to-earth suggestions on a wide range of subjects, from prayer life to controlling the tongue, are the fruit of experience gained in hundreds of revival meetings which the author has held across the country.