



The Salvation Army U.S.A.



30 days
with
CATHERINE MUMFORD BOOTH
(Mother of The Salvation Army)

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*“I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way
worthy of the saints . . . for she has been
a great help to many people,
including me.”
—Romans 16:2*

A month of daily devotions to appreciate
the commitment of Catherine Booth,
as well as her husband William Booth
to God’s commission on their lives.

Compiled from the writings and speeches of
Mrs. Catherine Booth by
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U.S.A. Southern Territory.
Commissioner Maxwell Feener, Territorial Commander

The materials for this devotional booklet
are excerpts from the following books:

Highway Of Our God

Life And Death

Papers on Godliness

Papers On Practical Religion

Catherine Booth

The Life of Catherine Booth,

Volumes I and II

Commissioner F. de L. Booth-Tucker

Catherine Booth: A Sketch

The Warriors' Library. No. 1

Colonel Mildred Duff

Life of Mrs. Booth

W. T. Stead

DAY

1

“I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:44

‘I think it must be self-evident that it is *the most important question* that can possibly occupy the mind of man, *how much like God we can be*—how near to God we can come on earth preparatory to our being perfectly like Him, and living, as it were in His very heart for ever and ever in Heaven. Any one who has any measure of the Spirit of God must perceive that this is the most important question on which we can concentrate our thoughts; and the mystery of mysteries to me is, how any one, with any measure of the Spirit of God, can help looking at this blessing of holiness and saying, “Well, even if it does seem too great for attainment on earth, it is very beautiful and very blessed. I wish I could attain it.” *That*, it seems to me, must be the attitude of every person who has the Spirit of God—that he should hunger and thirst after it, and feel that he shall never be satisfied till he wakes up in the lovely likeness of his Saviour. And yet, alas! we do not find it so. In a great many instances, the very first thing professing Christians do is to resist and reject this doctrine of Holiness as if it were the most foul thing on earth.

‘We are told over and over again that God wants His people to be pure, and **THAT PURITY IN THEIR HEARTS IS THE VERY CENTRAL IDEA AND END AND PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume I, pgs. 210, 211

**For a Christlike walk,
keep in step with Christ.**

DAY

2

“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord!” Psalm 27:14

‘It seemed to me unreasonable to suppose that I could be saved, and yet not know it. At any rate, I could not permit myself to remain longer in doubt regarding the matter.

‘I can never forget the agony I passed through. I used to pace my room till two o’clock in the morning; and when, utterly exhausted, I lay down at length to sleep, I would place my Bible and hymn-book under my pillow, praying that I might wake up with the assurance of Salvation. One morning, as I opened my hymn-book, my eyes fell upon the words:—

My God, I am Thine! what a comfort divine!
What a blessing to know that my Jesus is mine!

Scores of times I had read and sung these words, but now they came home to my inmost soul with a force and illumination they had never before possessed. It was as impossible for me to doubt as it had before been for me to exercise faith. Previously, not all the promises in the Bible could induce me to believe; now, not all the devils in Hell could persuade me to doubt. I no longer hoped that I was saved; I was certain of it. The assurances of my Salvation seemed to flood and fill my soul. I jumped out of bed, and, without waiting to dress, ran into my mother’s room and told her what had happened.

‘For the next six months I was so happy that I felt as if I was walking on air. . . .’

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume I, pgs. 37-38

**What you worship determines
what you become.**

DAY

“The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them” Psalm 34:7

3

No matter what our creed or opinion, God has made it a law of our spiritual being, that without submission and obedience there can be no confidence. Faith in Jesus is God’s expedient for bringing us *back to obedience*, and not for saving us *in disobedience*. And all the way through the New Testament He refuses to accept any other proof of discipleship than that of obedience. No less than six times in the 14th and 15th chapters of John is this criterion insisted on. “Faith without works (obedience) is dead,” and therefore has no power to take hold of God, or to appropriate His promises. . . . “How can ye believe,” said our Lord to some in His day, “while ye receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” And we may say to some in our day—how can ye believe who prefer self-indulgence, wealth, or worldly conformity, to Christ and His cross, and the extension of His kingdom? Is it not still true that “if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him,” and that “the friendship of the world is enmity towards God?” Saving faith in the sinner, and prevailing faith in the believer are alike impossible without full consecration to known duty. If any one disputes this, let him try to exercise faith in any given promise or for any given blessing, while he is refusing obedience to the claims of God, or withholding part of the price which God requires, and he will find, whatever may be his preconceived notions on the subject, that it is *simply impossible*.
Papers on Practical Religion. pgs. 212, 213

**Faith sees things that
are out of sight.**

DAY

4

“He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens:”

Revelation 3:7

Peace is the universal want of man. Everywhere and always the race is in a state of unrest, ‘tossing like a troubled ocean,’ seeking rest and finding none. Consequently, men adopt many counterfeits, and try to satisfy the aching void of their souls with the opiates of Satan.

Let us look for a moment at the nature of true peace. Peace is not a state of mere quietness or insensibility. Alas! many are in this state of torpor; and when you ask them about their souls, they say, ‘Oh, yes! I have a hope; I have a measure of peace. I hope I am right.’ But when you try to shake them up, and find out whether they have any thorough foundation for their peace, they don’t want to be disturbed. But peace is not insensibility to existing differences between the soul and God; for in such a condition there are all the elements of awful and eternal warfare, and there only needs a change of circumstances in order to land the soul in conflict, distress, and desolation. We do not mean *that* sort of peace. True peace, Divine peace—the only peace that will do to die with—arises out of a settlement of our differences, and a cessation of hostilities towards God, and reconciliation between the soul and God, bringing assurance and quietness in view of both the past, present, and future.

Life and Death. pgs. 175, 176

**To accept God’s will is to
experience God’s peace.**

DAY

5

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

‘True love sticks to the LORD JESUS IN THE MUD, when He is fainting under His cross as well as when the people are cutting down the boughs and crying “Hosanna!” I fear many people make the Lord Jesus Christ a stalking-horse on which to secure their ends. God grant us not to be of that number, for, if we are, He will topple us from the very gates of Heaven to the nethermost Hell.

‘Oh, I often think, if times of persecution were to come again, how many of us would be faithful? How many would go to the dungeon? How many would stand by the truth, with hooting, howling mobs at our heels, such as followed Him on the way to the cross—such as stood round His cross and spat upon Him, and cast lots for His vesture, and parted His garments among them, and wagged their heads and cried, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save”? How many of us would stick to Him then? But this is the only kind of love that will stand the test of the Judgment Day.

‘Oh, have you got this love? Love in the darkness; love in the garden; love in sorrow; love in suffering; love in isolation; love in persecution; love to the death! Have we got this love? Examine yourselves, beloved, and see whether you are in the faith or not, for there is much need of it in this day, when there are so many false gospels and so much false doctrine.’

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume I, p. 314, 315

**To grow in your love for God,
keep God in your thoughts.**

DAY

6

“*[We] . . . do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will . . .*” *Colossians 1:9*

Somebody was talking to me about having so much feeling in religion. I said, ‘My dear friend, what do you think God gave you feeling for?’ Some people seem to think it is a mistake that we *have* feelings. Our feelings play a very important part in all our social relations. Why would you exclude them from religion? David expressed his feelings, and was so carried away by them that he called on all creation to praise the Lord, the hills and trees to clap their hands and be glad. Get the right kind of religion, and it will make you feel. If you have not the right kind of feeling, I am afraid you have not the right kind of religion. The Lord help you! Well, we have some enthusiasm, and when our enthusiasm dies, I am afraid we shall die, too. Nevertheless, the power of The Salvation Army is not in its enthusiasm; neither does it consist in certain views of truth, or in certain feelings *about* truth. No! no! But it consists in whole-hearted, thorough, out-and-out surrender to God; and that, with or without feeling, is the right thing, and *that* is the secret of our power. *That* is the religion of the Salvation Army. We have glorious feelings as the outcome; but the feeling is not the religion—the feeling is not the holiness. Holiness is the spring and source of the enthusiasm.

Papers on Godliness. pgs. 123, 124

**Give Christ the key to every
room in your life.**

DAY**7**

“... it is high time to awake out of sleep;”

Romans 13:11

‘We must seek *till we find*, and this is just the difference between real seekers and hypocrites; the former go on till they find, and will not be satisfied with anything less than God; the latter get tired, and find rest in creature-good of one kind or another. Better go “hungering and thirsting after righteousness” all our days, than to take up with the Devil’s draughts or eat his husks. But our Lord is not a hard master, and when He sees that we seek *Him*—not *His gifts*, but *Himself*—with all our hearts, then we find Him.

‘The Lord help you not to grow weary, but to strive to enter in at the strait gate.

‘Abraham said to Dives, the rich man, “Son, remember! Thou in thy lifetime hadst thy good things, but Lazarus evil things; now he is comforted, but thou art tormented.”

‘Perhaps I have not quoted the exact words, but it means, “Thou didst choose thy portion on earth, and thou didst get it—a mansion, crops, barns, flocks and herds, horses and carriages, etc., without God and Salvation; whereas Lazarus chose to serve God and do right and save his soul, even though, perhaps, this very choice led him to the dunghill (I think very likely it was so). Now, and for all eternity, he is and shall be comforted.” “Just and righteous art Thou, O King of saints!” We know God’s ways; let us act accordingly.

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, pgs. 101, 102

**Living for Jesus
is not a part-time job.**

“... stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes:” 1 Sam. 12:16

‘...for four or five months before I commenced speaking . . . I passed through some severe heart-searchings.

‘I was, as usual, in the minister’s pew with my eldest boy, then four . . . I felt much depressed in mind, and was not expecting anything particular; but as the testimonies proceeded I felt the Holy Spirit come upon me. . . . I felt it to the extremity of my hands and feet. It seemed as if a Voice said to me, “Now if you were to go and testify, you know I would bless it to your own soul, as well as to the people!” I gasped again, and said in my heart, “Yes, Lord, I believe Thou wouldst, but I cannot do it!”

. . . And then the Devil said, “Besides, you are not prepared. You will look like a fool, and will have nothing to say.” He made a mistake. He overreached himself for once. It was this word that settled it. “Ah!” I said, “this is just the point. I have never yet been willing to be a fool for Christ. Now I will be one!”

‘Without stopping another moment I rose up from my seat and walked down the aisle. My dear husband was just going to conclude. He thought something had happened to me, and so did the people. . . . He stepped down, and asked me, “What is the matter, my dear?” I replied, “I want to say a word.”

‘I stood—God only knows how—and if any mortal ever did hang on the arm of Omnipotence, I did.

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume I, pgs. 183-185

**Now is the right time
to do God’s will.**

“Cast your burden on the Lord, And he shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

A young lady wrote me that she had been the bond slave for four or five years of a certain besetting sin which she had struggled and wrestled and prayed to overcome. Now and then she would gain the victory, and then down she would go again. She said, ‘It is such a subtle thing, connected with my thoughts and imagination, so that I do not think I ever can be saved.’ I showed her how dishonouring this unbelief was, and that if she would trust Christ to come and reign in her heart He could cleanse the very thoughts and imaginations. She made a little advance, but said she could not come so far as to think that Christ could purify her thoughts. She believed that He could save her from putting them into practice, but not that He could purify them. I tried to show her how Jesus, by the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, could purify the very thoughts of our hearts and, thank God, she did go another step. She said, ‘I rejoice with trembling for fear it should be only temporary, but I have trusted Him to purify the source. I must say He has done it, and instead of thinking these thoughts I have holy thoughts. If Satan presents anything to my mind it is so repulsive to me that I cannot tell you the grief and horror with which it fills me.’ Later she said, ‘I am conscious that my thoughts are pleasing to Him and He has saved me from this sin which has been the torment of my life for all these years.’

What I say is that anything He can do for one He can do for another.

Highway of Our God, p. 34

**God invites us to burden Him
with what burdens us.**

DAY

10

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”
Acts 12:5

I fear there are comparatively few Christians who know what prevailing prayer is, because they do not comply with the conditions on which alone it can be offered. I regard these conditions as threefold:

1st. Living and abiding union with Jesus. *“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”* (John xv. 7.)

2nd. Systematic obedience to the teaching of the word and of the Spirit. *“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence towards God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”* (I John iii 21, 22.)

3rd. Unwavering faith in the veracity and faithfulness of God. *“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.”* (James i. 6, 7.)

Of course there are many other passages of similar bearing and of equal weight, but I regard these three as clearly setting forth the conditions of prevailing prayer, constituting, as it were, the three steps of successful approach to the mercy seat. They are like three links of a golden chain connecting our souls with God, and if one be missing or defective, the power to prevail in prayer is lost.

Papers on Practical Religion, pgs. 211, 212

**Time spent with the Lord
is time well spent.**

DAY

11

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.”*

Hebrews 11:1

‘While we are to “labour to please God”, we are to remember that this is not the ground of our acceptance, which is alone the Precious Blood. Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saves us.

‘Remember, it is *the Blood* that cleanses the soul. Works meet for repentance is one thing, the faith that heals is another; both are indispensable. The little child or the vilest sinner who dares trust for a full Salvation gets it, while the most careful, principled, and determined disciple who *doubts* misses it. God cannot help it. He is bound to give or withhold according to our faith. It is not arbitrary on His part. In the very nature of the case, it is the only line on which He can meet us. I believe if He *could* have saved us in an easier way He would, but there was no other way.

‘. . . the greatest of all enemies is unbelief. *Faith* is the omnipotent lever which exalts the valleys and levels the mountains . . . Faith opens the gates for the King of Glory to come in; and when He is in, it takes hold of His strength to pull the pillars of Hell down. Oh, let nothing frighten you, or lure you from *trust!* *This* is the difference between a conqueror and a coward.”

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, pgs. 145-147

**Feed your faith and
your doubts will starve.**

DAY

12

“... *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*”

James 1:3

‘It stands to sense, if there is a Devil, that he should desperately withstand those who he sees are going to be used of God. Supposing *you* were the Devil, and had set your heart on circumventing God, how would you do it but by opposing those who were bent on building up His Kingdom?’

‘Yes; the trial of faith is precious, more precious than angel can conceive, when borne with patience and perseverance which will not yield. It is hard, and sometimes bloody, but it brings present and eternal glory. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.”’

‘God cannot make heroes except by conflict, any more than man can. Who ever heard of a hero who never fought? The raw recruits run away. It is the well-trained veteran, inured to danger and bloodshed, who stands the rudest shocks of the enemy and holds on to death. “Courage!” your Captain cries. “Only be thou strong, and of a good courage, and I will be with thee, and teach thee what thou shalt say.” “He hath chosen the weak things.” He has not *made shift with them*—taken them because there were no others. No! He hath *chosen* them. Will He ever forsake them, and thus make Himself a laughing-stock for Hell? Never! Will He ever let the Devil say, “Ah, ah! He chose this weak one and then let him fail”? No, *no NO!*’

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, p. 140

**God allows adversity into our lives not
to break us, but to better us.**

DAY

13

“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 11 Peter 1:8

I perceived that I had been in some degree of error with reference to the nature, or rather the attainment of sanctification, regarding it rather as a great and mighty work to be wrought in me through Christ, than the simple reception of Christ as an all-sufficient Saviour, dwelling in my heart, and thus cleansing it every moment from all sin.

‘I struggled through the day until a little after six in the evening, when William joined me in prayer. While he was saying, “Lord, we open our hearts to receive Thee”, that word was spoken to my soul: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice, and open unto Me, I will come in and sup with him.” I felt sure He had long been knocking, and, Oh, how I yearned to receive Him as a perfect Saviour! But, Oh, the inveterate habit of unbelief!

‘When we got up from our knees I lay on the sofa, exhausted with the excitement and effort of the day. William said, “Don’t you lay all on the altar?” I replied, “I am sure I do!” Then he said, “And isn’t the altar holy?” I replied in the language of the Holy Ghost, “The altar is most holy, and whatsoever toucheth it is holy”. Then said he, “Are you not holy?” I replied with my heart full of emotion and with some faith, “Oh, I think I am”. Immediately the word was given me to confirm my faith, “Now are ye clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”. . .

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume 1, pgs. 208, 209

**The most powerful testimony
is a holy life.**

DAY

14

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—” John 14:16

‘This is the will of God, even your sanctification,’ wrote Paul to the Thessalonians. There is a sense, and an important sense, in which sanctification must be the will of man. If it is not my will the divine will can never be accomplished in me. I must will to be sanctified, as God is willing that I should be sanctified. James, in his epistle, says, ‘Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.’ This was said to people who had been professing to believe, but had gone back under the dominion of their fleshly appetites. There are two or three other texts which seem to sum up the whole matter as, for instance, ‘Jesus Christ . . . gave Himself for us (that is, for us Christians, the whole Church of God) that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.’

. . . And again, in I John 3:3, ‘Every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.’ These are summing-up texts and there are numbers of others to show that the whole purpose of redemption is to restore us to purity; not only to purge us from the past, but to keep us purged to serve the living God.

Highway of Our God, pgs. 32, 35

**God the Father gave us His Spirit
to enable us to be like His Son.**

*“When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the Lord;” Jonah 2:7*

I am told that I have a practical mind, and I am glad I have. I hope I shall keep it to the end. I believe that any other kind of mind will be found to have been a snare, when we get before the throne of God; because Jesus Christ is going to be intensely practical in that day. He is not going to say ‘Inasmuch as ye *thought* it,’ or ‘Inasmuch as ye *felt* it,’ or ‘Inasmuch as ye *intended* it,’ or ‘Inasmuch as ye *promised* it’—but He is going to say ‘Inasmuch as ye *did* it.’ I want to be among the doers, and I want you to be among the doers.

What we have to come to is to accept God’s will for our lives; but in many cases people won’t do this. They won’t accept the hardship which following Jesus Christ involves; they like ease and comfort; but to follow Jesus Christ in the way He lays down involves a great deal of hard work. It involves the continual use of all our faculties, not allowing any of them to lie by to rust, not using any of them, either mental or physical, merely for our own gratification.

We are His servants, we are His children, we are His husbandmen, and He will demand the increase of all the faculties He has given us.

You must accept God’s plan, you must chose it, and say, ‘Yes, Lord, I will have this one ambition, motive and desire to live for Thee alone.’ You must not only say it, but act it out.

Life and Death. Pgs. 193, 194, 195

**The way of obedience
is the way of blessing.**

DAY

16

“... and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:3

Some people, even after they are converted, are too proud to own themselves wrong, or to confess when they have sinned. Catherine was not of that sort. In one of her letters to her mother she ends with these words:

‘Pray for me, dear mother, and believe me, with all my faults and besetments, your loving child.’

Her hunger after a holy life was real and practical. She knew she must learn to live by method—that is, doing right, whether she liked it or not—and not by feelings, if she was to be of use in the world.

So at the end of the year she wrote some new resolutions; . . .

‘I have been writing a few daily rules for the coming year, which I hope will prove a blessing to me, by the grace of God. I have got a paper of printed rules also, which I intend to read once a week. May the Lord help me to keep to them! But, above all, I am determined to search the Scriptures more attentively, for in them I have eternal life. I have read my Bible through twice during the past sixteen months, but I must read it with more prayer for light and understanding. Oh, may it be my meat and drink! May I meditate on it day and night! And then I shall bring forth fruit in season; my leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever I do shall prosper.’

The Warrior’s Library, pgs. 16-18

**To keep spiritually fit,
walk daily with Christ.**

DAY

17

“... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” John 14:23

. . . it would be a great mistake to regard Mrs. Booth as merely a humanitarian. One of the few letters I ever received from her concludes with an emphatic protest against the attempt to reduce Christianity to mere humanitarianism. . . . She wrote:

“Christ must be the best expounder of His own system, and He declares over and over again that His first and highest work in this world, was to glorify His Father and to reveal God to man. He further taught that there was no other way of doing this than by the revelation of, and the reception of, Himself.

“Christianity is as much a spirit as a practice, and herein it differs from all other religions and ethical systems, inasmuch as the practice of it is impossible without the infusion of the living spirit of the author. A man must live, by Christ and in Christ, a supernatural life before he can exemplify the principles, or practise the precepts, of Christianity; they are too high for unrenewed human nature, it cannot attain unto them. To love the brethren for Christ’s sake, and because of Christ’s love shed abroad in the heart, is quite different from loving the brethren for their own sakes, or even for the gratification of mere mutual generosity or benevolence.

Life of Mrs. Booth, pgs. 217, 218

**God’s Spirit lives in us
in order to work through us.**

DAY

18

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, . . .” Romans 1:16

Christ’s soldiers must be imbued with the spirit of the war.

Love to the King and concern for His interests must be the master passion of the soul. Without this, all outward effort, even that which springs from a sense of duty, will fail. The hardship and suffering involved in spiritual warfare are too great for any motive but that of love. It is said that one of the soldiers of Napoleon, when being operated upon for the extraction of a bullet, exclaimed, ‘Cut a little deeper and you will find my general’s name’—it was engraven on his heart. So must the image and glory of Christ be engraven on the heart of every faithful soldier of Christ. It must be the all-subduing passion of his life to bring the reign of Jesus Christ over the hearts and souls of men. A little child who has this spirit will subjugate others to his King, while the most talented and learned and active, without it, will accomplish comparatively little. If the hearts of the Christians of this generation were inspired with this spirit, and set on winning the world for God, we should soon see nations shaken to their centre, and millions of souls translated into the Kingdom.

The faithful soldier . . . looks onward through the dark clouds to the proud moment when the King will say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’ He listens, and above the din of earthly conflict he hears the words, ‘Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.’

Highway of Our God, pgs. 110-114

**A Christian on fire for God
will draw others to the light.**

DAY

19

“... *Christ Jesus, ... made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant . . .*”

Philippians 2: 5-7

‘If I were asked for the main characteristics that have helped me through life, I should give a high place among them to the sense of responsibility which I have felt from my earliest days in regard to everybody who came in any way under my influence. The fact that I was not *held* responsible was no relief at all.

An early illustration of this trait in Catherine’s character was one day manifested.

While running along the road with hoop and stick, she saw a prisoner being dragged to the lock-up by a constable. A jeering mob was hooting the unfortunate culprit. His utter loneliness appealed powerfully to her. It seemed that he had not a friend in the world. Quick as lightning, Catherine sprang to his side, and marched down the street with him, determined that he should feel that there was at least one heart that sympathized with him, whether it might be for his fault or his misfortune that he was suffering. The knight-errant spirit which Kate manifested, when, as a mere child, she threw down the gauntlet to the mocking crowd, and dared to take the part of the lonely, hustled criminal, was peculiarly typical of the woman who afterward stood by the side of her husband and General, helping him to face the scorn of his day and generation, until unitedly, with character vindicated and name be-blessed, they had climbed to a position of successful achievement, unique in the history of the world.

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume 1, pgs. 18, 19

**The more we serve Christ,
the less we will serve self.**

DAY

20

*“... I remember you in my prayers
night and day, . . .” 11 Timothy 1:3*

I believe that more souls are convinced in real prayer than in speaking. I have noticed this many a time. I have seen at the bottom of a great hall or theatre, or in the gallery, a lot of the roughest men conceivable, behaving in the most unseemly manner, arrested by the influence of prayer. Perhaps, when the rowdyism has been ready to break into open tumult, a little woman has stretched out her hands over the congregation, and said, “Now, let us pray;” and I have seen the whole mass of men assume an attitude of quietness and reverence. I have watched the aspect of the congregation, and seen great, rough, black-faced fellows get their heads down, and sometimes wipe their eyes; and when we have got up to sing, there has been no more disorderly conduct, but they have settled down with the solemnity of death to listen. Hundreds of them were convinced of sin while under that prayer. It was the Holy Ghost wrestling for those souls in the heart of that woman that struck them with conviction.

Prayer is agony of soul—wrestling of the spirit. You know how men and women deal with one another when they are in desperate earnestness for something to be done. That is prayer, whether it be to man or God; and when you get your heart influenced, and melted, and wrought up, and burdened by the Holy Ghost for souls, you will have power, and you will never pray but somebody will be convinced,—some poor soul’s dark eyes will be opened, and spiritual life will commence.

Papers on Godliness. p. 86

**To influence others for God,
intercede with God for others.**

DAY

*“and the peace of God, . . . will guard your hearts
and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

21

Philippians 4:7

Mrs. Booth had her moments of gloom, but they were usually followed by moments of inspiration. Here, for instance, is one of those mystic voices speaking from the Invisible, which came to support her in periods of stress.

“I had such a view of His love and faithfulness on the journey from Wellingborough, that I thought I would never doubt again about anything. I had the carriage to myself, and such a precious season with the Lord that the time seemed to fly. As the lighting gleamed around I felt ready to shout: ‘The chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof.’ Oh, how precious it is when we *see*, as well as believe; but yet more blessed to *believe* and *not see*. Lord, work this determined, obstinate, blind, unquestioning, unanswering faith in me and my beloved friend, and let us, too, dare to trust Thee in the midst of our peculiar trials. As I looked at the waving fields, the grazing sheep, and flashing sky, a voice said in my soul: ‘Of what oughtest thou to be afraid; am I not *God*? Cannot I supply thy little, tiny needs?’ My heart replied: ‘It is enough, Lord, I will trust Thee; forgive my unbelief.’”

Life of Mrs. Booth, p. 181

**When life is filled with shadows,
face the sunshine of God’s love.**

DAY

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, . . . for the sake of His body, which is the church, . . .”

Colossians 1:24

22

If you want to be a successful worker, you must make up your minds to begin with, that you will be CRUCIFIED.

As a dear minister once said to somebody, when he was arguing with him about being so hard in the pulpit, ‘I don’t care.’ ‘Oh!’ said the other, ‘Don’t ‘you know what became of “Don’t care?”’ ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘He was crucified, and I am ready to be crucified ‘alongside of him.’ When you are in the right, don’t care. You can but be crucified, and it will soon be over; and then the Book says that they that “suffer” with Him “shall also reign with Him,” and they shall be “glorified together.” It would be a wonderful thing to be glorified alone, but, oh, think of being glorified together with Jesus!

A gentleman said lately, ‘I have been thinking a ‘great deal about the glory. It is a wonderful thing— ‘that glory that is to follow. This would be worth a ‘man sitting on the dunghill all his life to obtain it.’ I looked at him, and thought, perhaps you are nearer to it than you think, and perhaps I am, too. Ah! it *is* a wonderful thing, that glory that is to follow. Then let us be willing to suffer with Him and for Him. Make up your mind to be crucified at the start, and then it will be easy.

Papers on Godliness, pgs. 112, 113

**The call to serve Christ includes
the call to suffer for Christ.**

DAY

23

*“[Christ] . . . bore our sins in
His own body on the tree, . . .”
1 Peter 2:24*

I have often said, as a last resort, to sinners writhing in the agony of conviction, and groaning under a retrospect of their lives, and an apprehension of the consequences which their guilt has entailed, ‘Was not the sacrifice enough?’ when they have said, ‘Oh, you don’t know how guilty—you don’t know how bad I have been; I do not believe anybody was ever as bad as I have been.’ I grant it all; but was not the sacrifice sufficient? Do you ever stop to think WHO WAS THE SUFFERER? He was the Son of God! Is not that enough?

I said to a lady, only a few days ago, ‘If God accepted the sacrifice as enough to atone for your sins, and to justify, and vindicate His law, will *you not accept it?* Will you not take the broken, bleeding body of your Saviour, as it were, and look up into the face of God, and say, ‘It is enough, Lord! He suffered enough to atone, even for *my sin!*’ Oh, it is a blessed thing when the sinner comes to that; when the Holy Spirit exhibits before him the greatness and sufficiency of the atonement, so that he accepts it, and rests upon it; then conscience is satisfied, and the peace of God fills the soul.

Life and Death, pgs. 136, 137

**Jesus took my place on the cross
to give me a place in heaven.**

DAY

24

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

Well, if repentance be an indispensable condition of salvation, let us try to find out what repentance really is.

Repentance is simply renouncing sin—turning round from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God. This is giving up sin in your heart, in purpose, in desire, resolving that you will give up every evil thing, and that you will do it now. Of course this involves sorrow; for how will any sane man turn himself round from a given course into another if he does not repent having taken that for-bidden course? It implies, also, hatred of the course he formerly took, and from which he turns.

He is like the prodigal who, when he sat in the swine-yard amongst the husks and the filth, fully resolved, and at last acted. He went, and that was the test of his penitence. He might have sat resolving and promising till now, if he had lived as long, and he would never have got the father's kiss, the father's welcome, if he had not started; but he went, and went to his father honestly and said 'I have sinned'—which implied a great deal more in his language than it does in ours now. Then comes the proof of his submission, 'and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants'—put me in a stable, or set me to clean the boots, so that I can be in thy family and have thy smile. That is Jesus Christ's own beautiful illustration of true penitence.

Highway of Our God. pgs. 10, 11, 12

**By living for ourselves we die;
by dying to ourselves we live.**

DAY

25

*“And you became followers of us
and of the Lord, . . .”
1 Thessalonians 1:6*

‘Dear friend, time is hurrying us on. Death won’t wait till we make up for lost chances. A few short years at the longest (and it may be months) and we shall have to face our Judge. What will anything then signify compared with being ready for that glorious “Well done” promised to faithful souls? I cannot bear to think of your missing it. I have travailed for your soul. I have had the joy of knowing that the Lord used me, feeble and unworthy as I am, to your quickening. I know that He wooed you to a whole-hearted surrender to Himself, and shall it be in vain? Will you lose the prize for the sake of a little earthly pride, or a few short-lived sacrifices?’

‘Dear friend, be entreated. Let go everything that He has shown you you must, and abandon all to His disposal; and then, whatever the pain, you shall prove, as I have done, that it is indeed true that if you will consent to lose your life for His sake you shall find it. I will follow this with fervent prayer that grace may be given you to do it, and will remain till the books are opened.

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, pgs. 236, 237

**The one who follows Christ
leads the way for others.**

“No servant can serve two masters; . . . You cannot serve God and mammon.” Luke 16:13

Here is the reason why we have such a host of stillborn, sinewless, ricketty, powerless spiritual children. They are *born of half-dead* parents, a sort of sentimental religion, which does not take hold of the soul, which has no depth of earth, no grasp, no power in it, and the result is a sickly crop of sentimental converts. Oh! the Lord give us a real, robust, living, hardy Christianity, full of zeal and faith, which shall bring into the kingdom of God lively, well-developed children, full of life and energy, instead of these poor, sentimental ghosts that are hopping around us. Oh! friends, we want this vivid realization ourselves. If we have it we shall beget it in others. Oh! get hold of God. Ask Him to baptize you with His Spirit *until the zeal of His house eats you up.*” This Spirit will burn His way through all obstacles of flesh and blood, of forms, proprieties, and respectabilities—of death and rottenness of all descriptions! He will burn His way through, and produce living and telling results in the hearts of those to whom you speak, earnestness—such earnestness that it comes to desperation—like that of Paul, who counted all things but dross; yea, and who counted not his life dear unto him. *That* was the secret. He counted not his life, nor anything that constitutes life—liberty, pleasure, enjoyment, friends, reputation, ease, &c.,—all was on the altar, . . . He counted none of those things dear unto him, so that he might win the perfection, the fullness of Christ in his own soul, and the salvation of the souls around him.

Papers on Godliness, pgs. 110, 111

**Hold loosely to what is temporal
and tightly to what is eternal.**

DAY

27

*“For what is your life? It is even a vapor
that appears for a little time
and then vanishes away.”*

James 4:14

God has been speaking all day, speaking in an unmistakable voice, speaking in the most direct and clearest possible way to many hearts.

He wants you. He wants your gifts. He wants your influence. He wants your money. He wants all you have, but He wants most of all *You! You! Every one of you!* I don't know where you sit, and I don't know to what He calls you; but the question to settle is, *Will you obey?* Will you rise and follow? Will you face whatever it is He calls you to face? Shut your eyes; never mind me. Look inside. Listen to the voice within. Face God and say, 'Yes!' or 'No!' Face Him. Oh, this everlasting swinging to and fro like the door on its hinges! Oh, this coming up to the point, coming up to the brink, and then going back again into the wilderness! Oh, this listening and thinking and saying 'I would like to—I wish I could—I will some day'—and then holding back!

Think what the joy will be of having pearls to bring to your Lord—sheaves to bring to His garner, now and in the great eternal harvest home which is coming on.

Embrace the cross; sacrifice whatever it may be. Say, 'Lord, I will arise and follow Thee. I do rise and follow Thee just now.'

Life and Death, pgs. 185, 188

**It's never too soon
to invest in eternity.**

DAY

“... *the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*”

Revelation 22:3

28

“One Sabbath I was passing down a narrow, thickly populated street on my way to chapel, anticipating an evening’s enjoyment for myself, and hoping to see some anxious ones brought into the kingdom, when I chanced to look up at the thick rows of small windows above me, where numbers of women were sitting, peering through at the passers by, or listlessly gossiping with each other.

“It was suggested to my mind with great power, ‘Would you not be doing more service and acting more like your Redeemer, by turning into some of those houses, speaking to these careless sinners, and inviting them to the service, than by going to enjoy it yourself?’ I was startled; it was a new thought, and while I was reasoning about it, the same inaudible interrogator demanded: ‘What efforts do Christians put forth, answerable to the command, “*compel* them to come in, that My house may be filled?’”

“This was accompanied by a light and unction which I know to be Divine. I felt greatly agitated. I felt very guilty. I knew that I had never thus labored to bring lost sinners to Christ; and, trembling with a sense of my utter weakness, I stood still for a moment, looked up to heaven, and said: ‘Lord, if Thou wilt help me, I will try,’ and without stopping further to confer with flesh and blood, turned back and commenced my work.

Life of Mrs. Booth, p. 162

**Looking for a field of service?
Look around you!**

DAY

29

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35

‘The nations of the earth—millions upon millions of men and women, living in darkness—wait for us to bring to them the light of life and the blessings of Salvation. We must make haste or their eyes will grow dim while they wait, and they will perish, with help in sight, but out of reach.

‘The command of Christ, urging us to go to all the nations of the earth with the knowledge of His mercy, rings in our ears and must be complied with; but this can only be done by each one making a sacrifice of something which flesh and blood would prefer to keep or to enjoy.

‘Comrades, let us ask ourselves not how little, but *how much* we can possibly spare for the glory of Him “Who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich,” and thus prove that we love in deed and not in word only.

‘Soldiers and friends, fathers, mothers, and children, let us join together in this holy enterprise.

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, p. 346

The greatest blessing comes to the one who freely gives and expects nothing in return.

DAY

30

*“For to me, to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21*

‘My comrades, as I lie here just outside the Gates of the City, looking back on the path upon which I have been travelling for so many years gone by, I find nothing that gives me real satisfaction but what has been done in God and for God, and for the benefit and blessing of this poor dying world.

‘Let me urge you to stand clear of every false and evil way, no matter what inducements of pleasure or gain or public opinion may lure you to it.

‘Be sure and seek at all cost to maintain Holiness of heart and life, and give yourselves up without reservation to the war with evil and to the rescue of your perishing fellow-men.

‘Remember how short life is, how rapidly it passes away, how soon eternity will be here, and Oh! let me entreat of you to live as you will wish you had done when you come to stand, as I do now, with your feet in the River.

‘God bless you! I would like to come and help you to-morrow. I would gladly have stayed here a little longer to have pushed forward the War, and to have taken part in the special effort for a hundred thousand souls just inaugurated by The General, but I shall hear of their ingathering as surely, and rejoice over it as fully, in the Country whither I am going.

‘Good-bye. “I will meet you in the Morning.”

‘Yours, washed in the Blood of the Lamb,

‘Catherine Booth.’

The Life of Catherine Booth, Volume II, p. 349

**When a Christian dies,
he has just begun to live.**

