

Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

(42) Development and Service (pages 497-502)

Summary:

This chapter in many ways is the reverse focus of the previous one. Instead of gentleness, patience and kindness, the character qualities emphasized here are courage, perseverance and drive.

Thoughts:

This chapter calls for the active virtues to be added to the more passive ones. Kindness and gentleness are at the core of Christian character, but it is things like courage and energy that overcome evil and provide power for good. Many accomplish little because they attempt little. Circumstances don't have to master us, we can master them. The sacrifice of Christ is ground enough for extra effort on our parts. (497-502)

Many people find it easy for their personality to be smothered by the group. We want to please and when everyone else is going a certain way, it is easy to go along. But the cohesion of the group is often an illusion, many are waiting for someone of courage to speak up. This chapter offers encouragement to live according to one's conscience, even though no one else seems to approve. This requires active strength of character that is grounded in deep relationship with Christ.

Quotable Quotes:

"Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings." (497)

"Some who engage in missionary service are weak, nerveless, spiritless, easily discouraged. They lack push. They have not those positive traits of character that give power to do something--the spirit and energy that kindle enthusiasm. Those who would win success must be courageous and hopeful. They should cultivate not only the passive but the active virtues. While they are to give the soft answer that turns away wrath, they must possess the courage of a hero to resist evil. With the charity that endures all things, they need the force of character that will make their influence a positive power." (497-498)

"Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires us to value ourselves." (498)

"Never think that you have learned enough, and that you may now relax your efforts. The cultivated mind is the measure of the man. Your education should continue during your lifetime; every day you should be learning and putting to practical use the knowledge gained." (499)

"Everyone who accepts Christ as his personal Saviour will long for the privilege of serving God. Contemplating what heaven has done for him, his heart is moved with boundless

love and adoring gratitude. He is eager to signalize his gratitude by devoting his abilities to God's service. He longs to show his love for Christ and for His purchased possession. He covets toil, hardship, sacrifice.” (502)

Tweets of Healing:

Gentleness, patience, meekness and kindness are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. (497)

We are called to give the soft answer that turns away wrath, while possessing the courage of a hero to resist evil. (497-498)

Your education should continue during your lifetime; every day you should be learning and putting to practical use the knowledge gained. (499)

Man can shape circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the man. (500)

If men could be led to consider the amazing sacrifice made by the Majesty of heaven, selfishness would be banished from their hearts. (501)

Many accomplish little because they attempt little. They attempt little because of the low estimate they place upon themselves. (498)