

The Believer's Part in Becoming Spiritual

Though born again, some of the old sins continued to manifest themselves in the same old way. The outstanding sin in my life was a terrible temper. I would not like to tell you some of the things that I said and did when I lost my temper. Having what often accompanies a quick temper, a sensitive, affectionate heart, I would go apart after an outburst and cry as though my heart would break. Then I would resolve to conquer it by will power, but all to no avail, for my temper was quick and my will was slow. From childhood there is one thing that I have always hated—hypocrisy. I had detected it very easily in other Christians' lives and had criticized them freely for it. But one day God let His own light flood my soul and revealed to me the hypocrisy in myself. Truly loving my Lord I hated myself for the caricature of Him I was giving to others.

Utterly disheartened I sought the quiet of my own room one day, and determined to stay there until something happened. I told the Lord that either He must show me what a truly Christian life was, and how to live it, or I would ask the pastor to take my name from the church roll, that I might tell my family and friends that I no longer made any profession of being a Christian. God knew that I was honest and He always goes nine-tenths of the way to meet an honest soul.