

SEE THE GLORY

by

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CHAPTER SIX

NEW UNDERSTANDING

“BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.”

This injunction in Romans 12:2 Adelaide was experiencing in changing attitudes since her conversion. Problems which had troubled or mystified her in her earlier life were now seen in a far different light. For instance: When she was a small child, attending her Uncle Jim's funeral had made her quite ill. Now, after the death of an earnest Christian friend, she came out of the funeral service beaming, and with the wonder of enlightenment she remarked, “To think that her body is there, but she herself is with the Lord!”

In writing a memorial in the Score Board for this friend, Ethel Linton, Adelaide said, “Through the sorrow of separation we feel secure, grateful for the promise which gave her peace and quiet joy as she went to meet her Master and ours.”

In the following Score Board article, Adelaide dealt with another of youth's problems:

Living Abundantly

Two things, I feel, are needful in order that we may live abundantly and joyfully: first, the challenge of an ideal always higher than ourselves toward which to strive; and secondly, the security afforded by the knowledge that we will be forgiven and understood, when, through no fault of our own or otherwise, we miss the mark we had set for ourselves.

Christ combines the two most perfectly for us. While presenting an ideal so high that even Paul felt bound to say, “**not that I have already attained, but I press forward,**” He still offers that security and peace of certain forgiveness down to the very last and most imperfect of believers.

To use a practical comparison: how much greater would be the peace of mind experienced by a football team at the start of a game, could the players be sure that no matter what mistakes might be made or how disastrous the final score, so long as they had tried their best, they should stand just as high in the regard of their rooting section and college constituents as if they had surpassed all hopes or expectations! Yet that is exactly the stabilizing assurance every Christian has.

Looking unto Jesus all the way along,
So shall we be patient, so shall we be strong;
For the joy before us, counting all but dross,
With His power o'er us, we endure the cross.
Seeing Jesus nearer, growing more like Him,
Seeing heaven clearer as the world grows dim;
Strangers still and pilgrims, here awhile abide;
Looking unto Jesus, we are satisfied.

- Annie Johnson Flint, Songs of Grace and Glory

With Adelaide's new fellowship among Christians came still further understanding as she watched their lives. She was much impressed by the wedding of some Christian friends of hers. Bride and groom were both definitely desiring to found their "house" upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. Before the ceremony they took time together to ask for His presence at their wedding and His blessing upon them and their united lives. This was something of note to Adelaide.

Previously she had witnessed many weddings where the sacredness of the occasion was smothered in pageantry or sentimental foolishness. She had seen marriages lightly entered upon that were defeated by a pin prick of trouble. Now she saw how the Lord could establish a union built upon Himself.

As for boyfriends, Adelaide herself did not lack. She always played fair with them, however, not obligating herself or accepting too many attentions from the more ardent lest she raise hopes that she had no intention of encouraging. It was her policy to be pleasant to all of them, but not too friendly with any of them. This attitude she maintained through the years.

Later, when some of her happily married girl friends exhorted her to "Give yourself a chance," Adelaide smilingly refused to play up to a would-be suitor. She quoted Psalm 84:11: "**No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly,**" adding that it was all right for others to marry but evidently not one of the Lord's "good" things for her, since He had not yet sent the right man across her path.

Adelaide's spiritual interests made her nonetheless keen as a student and nonetheless interested in a game of tennis, at which she excelled, in hiking, and in other outdoor sports when there was time for them. If anything, she became more purposeful in her university study.

Because she had been graduated from junior college, she had only to complete her junior and senior years at the University of California to get her Bachelor of Arts degree. She was graduated in 1935 with honors in history, having been elected to membership in the honor history fraternity and in the educational honorary sorority. After the two undergraduate years at the University she added a year of graduate study, working for her teaching credential. Of Adelaide's record in this year, the University's secretary for supervised teaching has written: "She received an 'A' in her supervised teaching . . . On the rank order list of teachers in her field (social studies) she placed Number One. All our reports on her work are excellent."

Always a hard worker, Adelaide had not much patience with inefficient people, especially if she thought they were not doing their best.

She was courageous enough to remonstrate with dilatory friends, but did so in such a kindly way that they were not offended. One girl, more interested in dates with boys than in books, came to Adelaide “mooning about a flunk” and hoping for a shred of consolation. Often before, Adelaide had sought out this girl to comfort or encourage her; but this time she merely said, “Well, if I didn’t study any more than you do, I would expect to fail, too.”

Her method of dealing with still another girl was quite different, however. That one, who was not a Christian, was wavering between choosing to yield permanently to worldly activity or giving in to the Lord.

One day Adelaide met this girl on a campus lawn where, instructed by a school companion, she was concluding a lesson in smoking. Adelaide, instead of making the remarks expected by the embarrassed girl, engaged her in a friendly conversation. Nor was the incident ever brought up again, not even in the intimacy of the Epworth Girls’ Prayer Circle. No wonder this friend was always deeply grateful for Adelaide’s love which covered the smoking episode and the faithfulness that “prayed her over the hump” as the girl herself expressed it.

When the girl knew the Saviour, Adelaide and she became close friends, having much in common, both as members of the “Eppie Gals,” (the term by which the girls at Epworth Hall were known), and as mutually interested in the mission field.

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