

The Know-So Christian

by

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"I know whom I have believed"

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Chapter 5

The Life of the "Know-So" Christian

A Life of Good Works

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Ephesians 2:10)

When by faith we receive the Lord JESUS CHRIST as our very own and into our lives, we become the temples of the HOLY SPIRIT, and GOD the Father plants within us the Divine nature. We are a new creation. Old things pass away and all things are become new (II Corinthians 5:17).

The new life within will manifest itself in new living without. While our own works do not save us, yet the Father has ordained and planned for us a life of good works. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**"

From this verse, just quoted, it is plain that we have been made Christians in order that we should live righteously. Living for CHRIST will be as natural as breathing and will be as much a part of our nature as perfume is that of a rose. While it is true that even the "know-so" Christian will still possess the old and evil nature, yet the new man within is the stronger of the two, and GOD has so arranged it that not a single temptation shall be greater than we are able to bear (I Corinthians 10:13).

Our right-living and victory over sin will be the result of permitting the new-life-within to grow, and, as JESUS said concerning the SPIRIT, to blow "where it listeth." The big notion to do wrong will be accompanied by the bigger notion to do right.

The supernatural power of the indwelling CHRIST will manifest itself in us in such a manner as to cause us to live lives of supernatural naturalness.

I once heard of a child of seven years of age who could neither walk, talk, see, nor hear. There was **life** but no **living**. GOD forbid that we should ever have that kind of spiritual life.

If we truly know the truth, we shall be truly free. The drunkard will be a drunkard no more. The

bibulous, carousing inebriate will be changed into a decent sober citizen. The cursing, swearing man will speak the praises of GOD. The faithless will become faithful. The thief will be transformed into an honest man. The frivolous, giddy dancing girl will become a happy, cheerful soldier of the Cross. Lasciviousness and salaciousness will be turned to purity and chastity, hate to love, deceitfulness to fairness, worldliness to spirituality. Idols of favorite sins will be torn down and CHRIST Himself will be enthroned within the heart.

Christianity is a life. It is **the** life of CHRIST within, manifesting Himself through us to those round about us. There will be new living if there is new life. "For," in the words of another, "a religion that makes us feel right but does not make us live right is **not the Christian religion.**"

In the Face of Tragedy

The life of the "know-so" Christian will be one of many and varied experiences. He will know the experiences of joy and sorrow, and may climb often from the depths of anguish to the heights of bliss, only to find that due to some unforeseen tragedy, the morrow may find him walking the lonely valley of bereavement.

But even in the midst of dire distress, there will always be the sweet Presence of the SPIRIT, and he may know that all is well even when everything seems to go wrong. He will learn that even though Satan may be the ruler of this age, yet GOD is the "Over-ruler" and, for the Christian, can and does make life's tragedies into mountains of blessing. "**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to his purpose**" (Romans 8:28).

The Know-so Christian Will Have a Passion for Souls

Of the many privileges that shall be ours along the way, that of soul winning will be the greatest. It is the most natural thing in the world for us to have a passion for the lost.

It was so in the life of Paul. In his greatest Epistle, the one to the Romans, he exclaims with triumphant eloquence that he is persuaded that nothing shall be able to separate him from the love of GOD which is in CHRIST JESUS (Romans 8:35-39). How he lifts us and thrills us with the precious fact of the believer's security in CHRIST! And then while the noble heart of Paul is reveling in the ineffable wonders of assurance of his own salvation, his soul begins to reach out in compassion for those who are lost and without CHRIST. And he bursts forth with that heart-rending cry, "**I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost; that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh**" (Romans 9:1-3).

Ah, dear fellow-Christians, how can we help but be concerned for our unsaved friends and loved ones? I am sure that if we have absolute certainty of our salvation, we, like Paul, cannot rest unless we continually endeavor to win others.

It will not always be easy for us to speak to men about our Lord and their need of Him. There will be times when it will seem to us that all the powers of Hell are fighting against us and that a

seal has been placed upon our lips. As someone has tersely said, "We are like the Arctic rivers -- **frozen at the mouth.**" But surely we shall be impelled to say, "The love of Christ constraineth me." For men outside of CHRIST are lost, and GOD has no other way to reach them. I believe there are souls who will never be saved **except through our own testimony**; and that GOD has laid the responsibility for the salvation of souls **upon every Christian!**

Moody made it the rule of his life to speak to one person each day about CHRIST!

The promise of GOD to give the HOLY SPIRIT to them that obey Him was surely intended for those who are obedient in the matter of witnessing for Him as well as for those who are obedient in other things. While all Christians already **have** the HOLY SPIRIT, yet He manifests Himself more definitely in those who obey. As I think of those Christians I know who are the most happy and who seem to give the surest evidence of a Spirit-filled life, **without one single exception** they are all making efforts to win others to CHRIST.

The Joy of Soul-Winning

The expression of joy that shines in the faces of men and women when they have been made happy is one of the things that helps to make this world a cheerful place for us all. There are many things that give inner joy which is bound to show itself on our faces. But again, from my experience, let me say, "The expression of joy on the face of one who has just led a soul to CHRIST seems to me to be more genuine and radiant than that which comes from any other source." Take a look about you, my friends, and behold the truly happy Christians. Who are they? I believe you will observe, as I have already pointed out, that **without exception they are all soul-winners.**

The "Know-So" Christian Will Love the Bible

To those who know the Saviour best, there is the greatest love for the Book. Someone has said that Bible study is like watching the sky at twilight. The longer we wait and scan the vast sweep above us, the more stars we shall be able to see as they one by one, and later, score upon score of them, burst into view.

True it is that when we wait upon GOD, in meditation upon His Holy Word, He reveals to us the coruscating stars of truth and grace. As heat is to invisible ink, so is the breath of the SPIRIT to the Word of GOD in the hours of meditation.

The know-so Christian will love the Bible. It will be his spiritual food and sustenance. While he may read other literature and study other books for mental pabulum, his one satisfying source of soul inspiration will be the sincere (unadulterated) milk of the Word. I Peter 2:2. His delight will be in the Law of the Lord. Psalm 1:2.

Like John on the isle of Patmos, who (when he heard the voice from Heaven saying, "**Come up hither and I will show you things to come,**" **was immediately in the Spirit**, Revelation 4:2; even so, we also shall so love the Book, that whenever we hear it taught or read, or when we read it ourselves, shall be "immediately . . . in the Spirit."

Prayer Life

How astonished must those four disciples have been that morning when upon rising at their usual hour, they found that JESUS had risen much earlier and had gone out in the gray of the dawn to pray. See Mark 1:30-37.

Prayer is the very breath of the soul; and the know-so Christian will soon discover its power, not only in his own life but in the lives of others. Like the Son of Man, he will learn to steal away to the secret place for intercession and communion; like Moses, he will come forth with a shining face. And like Mary he shall find that GOD is more pleased by his fellowship than by his efforts to serve Him.

'Tis not the bustling hours of time
We spend in serving Him,
And not the deeds of service done
Nor yet the fame we win;
But whether there is fellowship
And blest communion sweet;
For oft we may do more for Him
By sitting at His feet

Love for Fellow Christians

Some years ago I had been asked to speak to a group of Christian businessmen. At the close of my address, opportunity was offered to the men to tell how they **knew** they were saved, and to give a verse of Scripture on which their faith was founded.

One clean-cut young man who had been converted a few months before, and who had been disturbed by doubts and manifold temptations, declared that the verse the SPIRIT had used to give him assurance was I John 3:14. "**We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.**" He then told how he had continually suffered from doubts until he saw the truth of that verse. Then there had flashed across his mind the fact that he no longer cared for the company of the worldly and foul-mouthed men of the town but that he now yearned for and sought the fellowship of Christians. **He loved the brethren!**

And how true it is! The child of GOD will hunger for fellowship; and because spiritual fellowship cannot be found in the world, he will seek for it. And seeking he shall find it in the company of those who also love the Lord.

In fact, GOD has given to His own the **capacity** for mutual love. "Herein shall all men **know** that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one toward another."

Victory Over Sin

A professed salvation that does not attain to victory over sin has fallen short of the standard.

There is no need to dodge the issue. Either we are saved from a love of sin or **we are not saved**

at all. This is perhaps one of the surest tests whereby the merely professing Christians may be distinguished from the **possessing** Christian.

Should there be any one of my readers who feels certain that he is saved and yet does not have victory over sin, who still loves the world, let me say this to him: "Dear friend, you have an **all-powerful** CHRIST as your Saviour. If you will yield the battle to Him, He will fill you with the HOLY SPIRIT and give you the victory. He has defeated Satan at the Cross, and if you will let Him He will defeat him in your life. You will then win, not by **fighting, but by surrendering.**"

Of course the Christian's life will be far different from that of the worldling. It cannot be otherwise. For he has met the Son of GOD face to face and come to know Him. And no man can see JESUS and ever be the same again.

Are we considered fanatical because we love to do right? Are we to be branded as eccentric because we love a Book that is scorned by its enemies? Are we to be condemned because we look upon our hardships as material from which we may manufacture new furniture for our house of praise? Are we to be mocked for our enthusiasm for the salvation of others? do men wonder how we can hold converse with GOD when they doubt His very existence?

Yea! We **are** an enigma to the world. But, something has happened to us and we **know Him:** and knowing Him, we **are not ashamed!**

~ end of chapter 5 ~
