

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

Dr. Walter L. Wilson

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CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

“I AM A FATALIST!”

These words were spoken to me by a well-dressed gentleman who seemed to be a man of some means, and with a good education. His whole manner indicated that he had been well trained, and was undoubtedly a successful man in business. He had come forward at the close of a gospel meeting and said to me, “I enjoyed your sermon tonight, Dr. Wilson; it contained many excellent thoughts, and I can see that you believe what you preach. What you said, however, does not meet at all with my idea of things, for I am a fatalist. I believe that if you are born to be saved, you will be saved; and if you are born to be lost, you will be lost. I believe we live a game of chance, and nobody can know anything at all about the future, or what will happen to us when we die.”

It seemed to me that this friend was honest in his statement, and that his conclusions concerning spiritual matters were a result of quite a little thinking brought about by his educational processes. I have found through the years that many men reason themselves out of the path of faith by false conclusions and human deductions.

I shook hands with this friend and said to him, “I am glad to meet you, for I love to converse with those who think, and who are interested in coming to a conclusion that is definite. Now that you tell me that you are a fatalist, let me assure you that I too am a fatalist. You might not have recognized this position from the message I gave tonight, but really, since I am talking with you personally and privately, let me assure you that I believe as you do.”

This was quite a surprise to my new friend, and he looked at me in amazement. He said, “I certainly would never have thought that you and I agreed on this subject. I did not get that idea from your sermon, and do not see how it can be true.”

I wanted him to be puzzled by my statement, for I have learned that the presentation of an unusual truth is more effective than conversing along conventional lines. I explained my position to him by saying, “I am sure that I was born to be saved, and so I am saved. The Lord Jesus came to me some years ago, and the Holy Spirit enabled me to see that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of men and that I could and should trust Him with my soul. I did this, and so I know I am a saved man.

“It is quite evident to me from your statements that you have not received Jesus Christ, and therefore I conclude that you are one of those who is born to be lost, and so you are. From this you will readily see that I am a fatalist as you are. I was born to be saved, and so I am; you were born to be lost, and so you are.”

The friend did not reply to that statement, but turned away and soon disappeared in the crowd. I was quite impressed with the sincerity of that friend, and took his case to the Lord when I returned to my room at the hotel. I hoped that the man would return the next evening to the service.

When I rose to speak the next night, I saw that he was there, and seated well toward the front. He listened intently to my message, sometimes bowing his head as though he was in deep meditation. At the close of the service, he was one of the first to come to me, and said, “You told me last night that you thought I was born to be lost, and so I am lost. Now listen to me, Dr. Wilson, I do not want to be lost. I have been thinking about this matter since last evening, and I have decided that maybe God would change His mind, and let me come to Him. I hope He will. I want to be a Christian. I have seen enough of the world, with its sorrows and disappointments. I want something better than I have been able to find in the business or the social world.”

This was really an invitation for me to give him some personal attention, and so we sat down at one side of the auditorium where we could be alone, and I presented to him the love of God, and the willingness of the risen Christ on the Throne to accept any sinner. I read to him John 6:37, **“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.”**

I explained to him that the Lord Jesus was able and willing to cleanse him from his sins, and to give him the gift of eternal life. We read together John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** Following this we read John 1:12, **“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.”**

I explained to him that the gift given in John 3:16 was to be accepted, or taken, or received as in John 1:12. He listened intently to my explanation, and then we read I John 5:12, **“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”**

These Scriptures revealed the Lord Jesus to my fatalist friend, and he accepted Jesus Christ. The light of God had shown in his dark heart, and he left the church satisfied that he was born to be saved.

~ end of chapter 24 ~

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