

Wings Like a Dove

By James W. Adams

David in despair over the oppression and hate of his enemies once prayed to God, "Oh that I had wings like a dove for then would I fly away, and be at rest" (Psalm 55:6). Elijah made the same mistake when he fled from the wrath of Jezebel. Supposing that he – and he, alone – stood against the evils of his day, he prayed, "O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers" (1Kings 19:4).

It is not too difficult to serve God when conditions about us are favorable to such services. The real test of our faith, loyalty, and devotion comes when circumstances are inimical to serving the Lord. Too many of us in the day of trouble like David and Elijah, desire to have "wings like a dove that we might fly away and be at rest." There has never been a day among the churches of the Lord, in the memories of those now living, when the cause of Christ more desperately needed true soldiers of the cross of Christ than now!

Our problems, many though they may be, cannot be solved if we pine for "wings like the dove that we might fly away and be at rest." So long as the cause of Truth has an enemy, the true soldier of the cross of Christ cannot REST. Taking refuge in discouragement, defeatism and isolationism will give no man of conscience rest. The Lord provided no piece of armor for the back of the Christian soldier (see Ephesians 6:13-20). He contemplated no situation in which it would be proper or in harmony with His will for soldiers to turn their backs and run. Our only hope for "rest" is to rise in the strength of Israel's God and "fight the good fight of faith."

When We Can't See Visible Results

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'" (Matt. 25:21).

An ancient story tells about a king who needed a faithful servant and had to choose between two candidates for the office. He took both at fixed wages and told them to carry buckets of water from a nearby cistern and dump them into a large basket which he had placed a short distance away. He said that he would return in the evening to inspect their work. After dumping a few buckets of water into the basket, one of the men said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we pour the water in, it runs out the sides." The other answered, "But we have our wages, don't we? The reason for the work is the master's business, not ours." The complainer replied, "I'm not going to do such fool's work," and throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued to work and by late afternoon he had emptied the cistern. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom. It proved to be a very valuable gold ring that had been lost in the cistern. The servant thought: "Now I see the reason for pouring water into the basket! If the bucket had brought up the ring before the cistern was dry, it would have been found in the basket." Let us be loyal and faithful to the Lord in all things even when we do not fully understand His purpose, and even when we can't see visible results.

I Drank

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

I drank for happiness and became unhappy.

I drank for joy and became miserable.

I drank for sociability and became argumentative.

I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.

I drank for sleep and woke up tired.
I drank for strength and felt weak.
I drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech.
I drank for confidence and became doubtful.
I drank for courage and became afraid.
(From a former alcoholic)

Proverbs 23:31-32 says, "Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper."

The Anvil

By John Clifford (1836-1923)

I paused last eve beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring, the vespers chime,
And looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I
"To wear and batter all those hammers so?"
"Just one," he answered. Then with twinkling eye:
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,
But though the noise of falling blows was heard
The anvil is unchanged; the hammers gone.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35).

The Eternal Word Of God

Generation follows generation, but the Bible lives on.
Nations rise and fall; yet it lives.
Kings and presidents come and go; yet it lives.
Doubted and criticized; yet it lives.
Condemned by unbelievers; yet it lives.
Misquoted and misinterpreted; yet it lives.
The eternal Word of God will serve forever:
As a lamp to our feet
As a light to our path
As a gift from heaven
As a standard for our lives
As water for the thirsty
As a light for the unsaved
As salvation for the sinner
As grace for the Christian.

The eternal Word of God lives on. Make it a part of your life every day. "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

A Moments Wisdom

- The mind is a terrible thing to waste – fill it with GOD’S Word.
- The little girl had been giving her mother a hard time all morning. Finally her mother said, “Please behave yourself. Don’t you know that every time you misbehave, I get another gray hair in my head?” “My,” the little girl said, “you sure must have been a bad little girl. Just look at all the gray hairs Grandmother has!”
- One size of fathering does not fit all.
- The best thing fathers can spend on their children is time.
- The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
- What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity.
- Everything is wrong that is almost right.
- If you chase two rabbits, both will escape you.
- Rotten wood cannot be carved.
- Living in the lap of luxury isn’t bad, except that you never know when luxury is going to stand up.