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**PATTERN CHRISTIAN VIRTUES**  
**By Clarence W. Perry**

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**DEDICATION**

To my beloved father, Rev. A. H. Perry, whose ministry and example, ever before me,  
have been a constant inspiration to my life and ministry, this little volume is tenderly dedicated by

The Author.

\* \* \* \* \*

**INTRODUCTION**

When I consider the hundreds of thousands of books in print and the comparative few that  
tell of the way of life, when I see scores of magazines which are published weekly and monthly  
and know that few are worth reading, I am of the opinion that no Christian need apologize for  
writing a book, far better that we apologize for writing so little. There is always room for a good  
book, and such a book is herein given us by Rev. Clarence W. Perry.

"Pattern Christian Virtues" is based upon that wonderful passage in First Timothy 4:12  
which has often been called, "The Goal of the young Christian."

Brother Perry is the first and only one to represent our church over the world's largest broadcasting station, WLW. Twice, for one week each time he had this privilege and these are some of the messages he delivered. Brought up in a godly home, converted and sanctified at an early age, a graduate of Asbury College and for several years a successful pastor of Stanton Avenue Church in Cincinnati, he is fitted to write on this subject; he is writing about what he lives, for his own life is a fine example of the believers in all these things. I have read his book, it is good, I most heartily commend it.

Jarrette E. Aycock

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## 01 -- PATTERN CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

Meditate for a little while on the following words found in 1 Timothy 4:12 -- "Be thou an example of the believers." As you pause from your task for a few moments, bow your head and thank God for the heritage which is yours, the privilege of living in a Christian land. God must love you and me a great deal. He willingly gave His only Son to redeem mankind. He gave us a salvation which is able "to save to the uttermost those who come unto God by Him" (Heb. 7:25). Having entrusted the promulgation of the gospel into the hands of the disciples of Christ, it becomes necessary that the follower of Christ be an example of the believers. Hence, we find Paul, the greatest of Apostles, admonishing Timothy, his son in the faith, to "be an example of the believers." We recognize it to be essential that the true follower of Christ be a real example. We therefore confine our consideration to the demand which is made upon us as true believers in Christ -- "to be an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Some would have us believe that one need not become greatly concerned about his Christian experience until quite advanced in years. Because of this we would have you notice that Timothy was a young man at this writing, and that Paul wrote -- "Let no man despise thy youth" (1 Tim. 4:12). The advantages of a life being given to Christ in youth are many. The happiness which accompanies "a conscience void of offence toward God and man," is to be desired by all. The best in life is to be found in the highest of ideals, which can be had only by one who possesses a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ. While some would try to convince us that freedom of life is

found by license to indulge in that which would weaken the physical, hamper the mental, and destroy the spiritual, we still believe that real freedom lies in the ability to resist all which is harmful to the best development of the whole nature of man, the physical, the intellectual, and the spiritual. Many have come down to the close of life having left God out, only to find they have missed the best in life.

The romance of the Christian life, a life of service devoted to God, has gripped the heart of other youth. I have never known one individual to lament having given himself for the uplift of fallen humanity, who early gave his heart and life to Jesus Christ, and lived a life of Christian service. My friend, we are not thinking of those only, who have been called to definite service as the ministry; but God can use and will bless all laymen, in all honorable walks of life who will "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these [good] things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

No doubt you may ask the question -- What is expected of the believer in order to be an example? There is a two-fold aspect to this question. First, the approval of God. Second, the correct influence upon our fellow-man. God was displeased with man, the creation of His hand, when he disobeyed in the garden of Eden. The penalty for the sin of man had been previously decreed -- "Thou shalt surely die."

["And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).] This is the first prophecy of the Messiah, the Redeemer of mankind. In the fullness of time, the Savior came into the world, born in Bethlehem's manger. The heavenly Host praised God saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" -- giving evidence of the approbation of God (Luke 2:14).

When Jesus was baptized of John in the Jordan, as the Spirit descended in the form of a dove, the voice of God spoke from Heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Here we find that the early life of Jesus had been lived acceptably to the Father. Nearing the close of the ministry of Christ, we see Peter, James, and John accompanying Him to the Mount of Transfiguration. Once more God speaks -- "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him," signifying Divine approval of the ministry of Christ (Matt. 17:5).

As Christ went to the cross, and arose from the dead, complete redemption of the entire human race became possible. In order for you and me to receive the approval and favor of God, it is necessary for us to receive the gift of all gifts, the gift of God, His only Son, whom He gave that you and I might live. If we truly accept Christ, we will accept His teachings, we will follow His admonitions, we will seek His forgiveness, and live an exemplary life, that all men, everywhere, may see Christ in our lives. If we are conscious of Divine approbation upon our everyday living, and seek to follow Divine leadership and guidance, we are certain to be an example of the believers.

Perhaps one of the greatest tests relative to your discipleship, is the witness of the unsaved man, who makes no profession of salvation. Does he believe you to be an example of what a Christian should be? The cause of Christ would be greatly enhanced by more consistent living by the professing Christian. Paul recognized the great importance of a correct influence, therefore he

admonished Timothy to be an example of the believers. He realized that men would be skeptical and would seek to discount the Christian faith of the young follower of Jesus Christ. It was necessary that he conduct himself in such a manner that men would believe in his Christ.

The price of influence -- how great. According to your living, men are influenced to believe in Christ or disbelieve. One wrong act or shady deal may produce that influence upon some watching soul which may be the stumblingblock that shall turn that soul away from the gates of mercy. God has recognized one human soul more precious than the wealth of all the world. How differently we would conduct ourselves, if we were truly conscious of the tremendous influence we wield. Paul said, "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (1 Cor. 8:13). We are told to "abstain from the very appearance of evil." Could we not afford to deny ourselves of some things which may not seem harmful to us, in order that we win a priceless soul to Christ? Opportunities come suddenly and swiftly upon us. We are called to make an immediate decision. That decision may determine the destiny of some soul. The opportunity quickly passes. We have influenced someone toward God, or we have left him going farther away. Living where God can direct us, together with obedience to His bidding, is the secret of a proper influence.

How far does our responsibility reach? It reaches as far as the needs of the human soul. Our responsibility to wield an influence that is always right is co-extensive with the contacts of life itself. Even this is not the limit of our responsibility, for those whom we influence also influence others. Eternity only will define the limits of our influence and then it will be too late to alter it. How great is our responsibility now.

Christ is calling His followers to win others to Himself. If we fail to so live as to win men to Christ, we have failed in the task given us by the Master. Do we think that by following Christ, we shall be deprived of many pleasures of this world? Do we realize that Christ gave His all, even His life, that we might live eternally? The hope which stirs in every breast is to live eternally. In order to inherit eternal life, we must live for Christ now. To live for Christ is to wield a life of influence. To live an influential Christian life is to be a true example of the believers.

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## 02 -- AN EXAMPLE IN WORD

Paul became more explicit in his admonition to Timothy when he wrote -- "Be thou an example ... in word." You have often heard the expression -- "Permit a man to talk, and he will soon reveal his true character." When one possesses high ideals, he will speak of that which is uplifting and helpful. If his ideals are low, they will be manifest in his conversation. Ofttimes we have been disappointed in one we first esteemed, after we have listened to him talk. Others have risen to the heights, in our estimation, as we have heard them speak of that which gave evidence of a noble character. How true the Proverb 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

As Christians, it is our privilege and duty to witness for Christ. Some people object to witnessing for Christ with the testimony. They argue that they believe in witnessing with their life. It is well to witness with both. However, it is not difficult to witness with the lips when the heart

and life are pure. When we truly have Christ in the heart, there will be an urgent desire to testify. Some people think so much about their trials that they forget their blessings. In the prayermeeting you will hear them telling about their hard places in life rather than the "Peace of God which passeth understanding." The Psalmist said, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Let our words be so filled with joy that men shall "hunger and thirst after righteousness that they may be filled."

Others have a word for their pleasures and desires. Let us kindly but boldly tell of our wonderful Savior, in shop, store and office. Do your words cause your friends to recognize you as a Christian? I recently heard a minister of a certain denomination say, "I was around here a good while before anyone found out I was a minister." I wondered how a man could be a minister and associate with a group of men and they not even discover he was a minister. How can any person claim to be a Christian and permit those about him to remain ignorant of the Christ who alone can save?

Some folks pass our way but once. A word properly spoken may turn them to Christ. Whether a casual acquaintance, an old friend, or one new, men need Christ, and we must not fail to speak that word which may mean the salvation of many souls. Let us pray with the Psalmist, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).

Let us pray -- Our Father which art in Heaven, help us to be a true example of what a Christian should be. May our life be such from day to day, that those we come in contact with, shall believe in our Christ, because they shall be able to see Christ in our everyday living. Guide our lives this day. Draw us close unto Thyself. May we be, truly, an example of the believers. In Thy matchless name we ask it. Amen.

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### 03 -- BE THOU AN EXAMPLE IN CONVERSATION

We find that the original Greek word which has been interpreted "conversation" in this passage of the Scriptures according to Adam Clarke, in reality means "conduct." He says, "In the whole of thy conduct, in every department which thou fillest in all thy domestic as well as public relations, behave thyself well." The crying need of the hour is for the professing Christian to be what he professes to be. To be a follower of Christ means more than being a mere disciple in name. It is necessary that one be a disciple in conduct. Proper Christian conduct is dependent upon a positive Christian life. Jesus urged upon Nicodemus the necessity of being born of the Spirit.

Many Christians have a sincere desire to be a true example but have not that power which gives strength to resist sin. Hence, their daily living does not exemplify the spirit of the Christ. The faith and courage of Peter and the other disciples wavered before the jeers of the angry mob who arrested Christ. After the reception of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, we find the disciples were failures no longer. In the fourth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles we find that Peter and John were taken by the Sadducees and brought before the rulers, because they preached the resurrection of the dead, through Jesus Christ. Being filled with the Holy Ghost, they spoke with

boldness a defense of the gospel they preached, until the Rulers were baffled and marveled at their defense, "and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." God did not fail them but gave them power to stand by their convictions and they were released.

In the second chapter of the Acts, we note, that when Peter preached his first recorded sermon after Pentecost, how marvelous the Spirit moved on the hearts of the people. The message, anointed of God, was so convincing that three thousand persons were saved the same day.

The conduct of Jesus, as He walked the shores of Galilea, as He ministered to the needs of the people, was so spotless that when His enemies sought to condemn Him, they condemned Him for His goodness because they could find no evil He had done. Jesus taught a ministry of pure and righteous living by His spotless life. He exemplified His own teaching Yes, He was Divine, but He was also human. He "was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin" (Heb 4:15.)

The power to be a genuine example of the believers cannot be found in finite man, but, if we trust in an infinite God we shall receive that strength which shall enable us to become exemplary Christians.

We are often asked, "Is there any harm in doing this or that?" Questions on conduct are not so hard to answer as they may at first seem. Our first responsibility is to glorify God. When we recognize God in His proper place; and realize that we are placed here to glorify God; then the question is not, "Are things right or wrong?" but "Does this act glorify God?" The apostle Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, the tenth chapter and the thirty-first verse, set forth the first duty of man when he wrote, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

God is the one who furnishes the air we breathe. The sunshine and the rain are governed by His hand. It is His desire to give the best to His creation. But God finds himself hampered by a selfish people; a people who are seemingly more interested in their own supposed welfare, than they are in God being glorified. Patriarchs of old gave their lives in loyalty to God, their Creator. They shall have their reward. Why is it that men will sacrifice an eternal reward for a temporary self-edification? Why is it that men will seek momentary praise at the price of eternal happiness? It is because of a lack of God-consciousness. When men shall see God in His true Sovereignty, and shall realize that God. is more interested in man than man is in himself -- in that hour man will have a desire to glorify God.

Paul, who learned at the feet of Gamaliel, lost sight of earthly fame when he caught a glimpse of Jesus on the Damascus road. He said good-bye to temporal, personal ambition, in order to follow the Christ of Calvary. He turned aside from the friendship of those who disdained the name of Christ and persecuted Christ's followers. He accepted the pathway of the "Man of Galilee." He declared, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

Paul became the greatest of apostles and his name is revered in the hearts of multitudes. His letters to the churches of his day were filled with inspiration and admonition, and have guided the destiny of multiplied millions down through the centuries. His devotion to his Lord amid persecution; his faithful walk up to the hour of death; his positive testimony as he took a retrospect

of his life; his assurance as he looked toward the future, until he could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:7) -- all these indicate a life lived for the glory of God, and give to us an example of the dynamic influence of a Christ-centered life.

While we have only one apostle Paul, yet multitudes, down through the years, have been willing to lose their lives in holy service that God might be glorified.

But there is another equally fundamental reason for proper conduct. It is essential to the final redemption of the Christian. God hath said in His Word, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Christ came into the world to save from sin. He that persisteth in living a sinful life must pay the price of sin, the forfeiting of spiritual life. "The wages of sin is death," saith the Word of God. Man cannot have both sin and God. It is presumption on the part of man to assume that he can live a sinful life ignoring God's unchanging law, and expect the love of God to grant him eternal life. Christ came into the world in order to "save His people from their sins." Christ came not to save men in their sins. Salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ will not only change the heart of man but will also change his life, his conduct.

In the first chapter we discussed the price of influence. May we again call your attention to the fact that man is responsible for his influence upon his fellow-man. How are men to be won to Christ, if the professing Christian is not an example in conduct? How can the great commission of Jesus Christ be fulfilled, when His professed followers are not proper examples? The greatest advertisement of any commodity is that it proves to be all it claims to be. In the commercial world we demand it or else lose faith in it. The professed follower of Jesus Christ will win the non-Christian to the Christian faith when the non-Christian is able to see the teachings of Jesus revealed in the daily conduct of the Christian.

The apostle Paul pled with Timothy to be an example of the believers in conduct. We plead with you, my Christian friend, that you be faithful to the responsibility which has fallen upon your shoulders, as a sincere follower of Jesus Christ. Live an exemplary life before the unsaved about you that men, everywhere, may believe in our Christ and His power to save. Do you desire to become a laborer in the great harvest-field of the souls of men? The fields are white unto harvest. Men are tired of a sham religion. The hearts of men are hungry for a gospel which will lift them out of the mire of sin and shame. God has called every Christian to go out into the white harvest-field and lead men to Christ. "When Jesus saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith He unto His disciples, The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth labourers into His Harvest" (Matt. 9:36-38). The Lord is calling you. He is pleading that by example and precept you may lead men to Christ.

Let us pray -- Our precious Lord, help us to see a world that is hungry to know God. May we live a life wherein Christ shall be revealed to the hearts of men. Guide and direct our every act this day, so that at its close, we may feel it has been lived for the glory of God. In Jesus' precious name we ask it. Amen.

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## 04 -- BE THOU AN EXAMPLE IN CHARITY OR LOVE

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:1-6).

The greatest single element in the world is Divine Love. Selfishness is outlawed and the good of all is sought where love abides. When love is the controlling force in the hearts of men, there is peace. God loved the man He created and gave him a beautiful garden in which to live. It was a great disappointment to God when man disobeyed, followed after Satan, sinning against his Creator. It grieved the heart of God to drive His creation from the Garden of Eden. Man must be made to realize the gravity of his sin. Punishment for disobedience had been decreed. The decree must be carried out. God must drive man from the beautiful garden, yet He loved him. God knew that man must become conscious of the need of his heart, since man had chosen the way of sin. Therefore man lost the beautiful place God had given him at the time of the creation.

Because of His love -- God set out to win man back to Himself. Because of His love -- "God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God gave His best that He might woo the soul of man back to Himself. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). What manner of love will compel a Mother or a Father to lay down their life in the place of their son? But what greater love, wherein a Father would sacrifice His only Son that fallen man might live. This is the fathomless love wherewith God loved you and me.

In the fullness of time, Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world. John said of Him -- "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Christ coming into the world, loved fallen man. He manifested the supreme love which He possessed, through His miracles of healing the sick, causing the lame to walk, and the blind to see. The supreme temporal example of the love of Christ is found in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus" (John 11:5). This was one of the two recorded times in the Scriptures where "Jesus wept." He wept because of the intimate friendship of this family. Yet He did not pass up the opportunity to teach "I am the resurrection, and the life; He that believeth in Me, though He were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). On another occasion as Jesus looked down upon Jerusalem -- "And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace; but now they are hid from thine eyes" (Luke 19:41-42). Christ loved Jerusalem. He loved His people. It literally broke His heart to see His people turn away from Him. His heart cried out as He saw His beloved people reject Him -- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent to thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her



chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37). Such matchless love as His had never been known.

Paul in writing to the Ephesian church, relative to His love said, "Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). Christ loves all believers, everywhere, of every Faith and Creed, and He is preparing to present unto Himself a glorious people -- who shall "be holy and without blemish."

While Jesus was upon earth He was asked the question -- "Which is the first commandment of all?" (Mark 12:28). He answered -- "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment" (v. 30). "And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (v. 31). The first requisite of man's love is that he should love God with all his heart. Christ has asked that you love God more than you love yourself. Christ has asked that you love God more than you love your fellow-man. Christ has asked that you love God more than you love your earthly possessions. Christ demands that you love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Man does not find it hard to serve God when he loves Him. It is easy to turn away from sin when you love God.

What is it to love God? In 1 John 5:3 we read, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous." "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear ... He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). In order that man may have the favor of God, he must love God with an undying love.

But notice -- Christ made another requisite. Christ said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." While man may not admit it, there is one person he loves quite fondly. That person is himself. If man would love his neighbor as he loves himself, there would be an end to all strife. You are familiar with the Golden Rule -- "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31). Man would not be trying to take advantage of his neighbor; nations would not be preparing for war, if this were true. The world is in a state of unrest -- men and nations distrust each other.

The true Christian will be an example of brotherly love. Christ in His sermon on the Mount set the only true standard of love. Hear His words -- "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven: for He maketh the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:43-48.)

In the midst of a world of hatred and sin, examples in love are needed. Who will show forth the spirit of the Master? Who will demonstrate to a lost world the love of the Christ? The

Christian, the follower of Jesus, must answer the call of needy men and exemplify a true Christian love. Many people are looking for some great task to accomplish. My Christian friend, you may never find a place of world renown. You may never hear the plaudits of the masses as you demonstrate some great act of kindness. You may never receive the praise of men as those who complete some outstanding temporal accomplishment, to be lauded to the heights, only to be soon forgotten as others come along to take their place.

You can, however, in the midst of apparent obscurity, live a holy life of love, unnoticed by the masses, but recognized by a loving God who understands the very intents of the heart, and in that great day shall be accounted worthy as He makes up His jewels. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven ... He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it ... And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matt. 10:32, 33, 37-39, 42).

Be faithful day by day in the little acts of love. The Father looking down from Heaven will see His faithful children. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). We can lift up Christ before the world by being an example in love. My unsaved friend, perhaps you are disappointed sometimes in some of those who claim to represent the church of Jesus Christ. If this be true, will you look to Jesus Christ, who loved you so, that He laid down His life that you might live?

May the blessing of the Most High God rest upon your heart and help you to manifest a love for Christ, and a love for our fellow-man, as will enhance the cause of God, Amen.

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## 05 -- BE THOU AN EXAMPLE -- IN SPIRIT

It seems that Paul gave quite an assignment to Timothy, when he urged him to be an example of the believers. Yet Paul did not demand anything of Timothy which we do not believe to be essential to the proper influence of the true follower of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that a certain King preferred Daniel above all the princes because he had within him a right spirit. This is the quality of soul that causes us to estimate the value of people. Adam Clarke says, "It is the manner and disposition in which thou doest all things." It is possible for an individual to do a kind act and yet possess a wrong spirit while doing it. The spirit you manifest as you come in contact with your fellow-man, will tell more about your real character than anything you might say or do. It is easy for everyone to manifest a right spirit when everything is going well. The true test of one's real spirit is the disposition manifest while being tested and tried. When things go wrong, when disappointment comes, when you fail to have your own way,

when you must submit to the desires of others gracefully, cheerfully, manifesting a Christ-like spirit? How do you act under pressure? This is the real test of the spirit of the Christian.

In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16).

You are casting forth an influence as a light which cannot be hid. As a believer, let your spirit shine forth in a right manner, that men may see your good works. Men may see your good works but they will also look to see if your spirit is right. A wrong spirit will bedim the light of your good works. If your spirit is not right, men will often overlook your good works, and judge you by your spirit. However, if your spirit is right, the good works which you do will be magnified before their eyes and your influence will be recorded within the hearts of men.

The spirit of man is manifested in the atmosphere created when he serves. Men who worship God because they love Him; men who serve the church because of devotion for her; men who serve their fellowman with the supreme thought in mind of lifting up the souls of men, and advancing the Kingdom of God upon the earth, will radiate a spirit of Godliness, which is a true example of the true believer. Men who serve only because of duty are void of a passion and fervor which is necessary in order to reach the heart of man.

When Jesus called at the home of Mary and Martha, you will recall that Martha complained because Mary did not help her with the preparation of the meal. It was not wrong for Martha to prepare the dinner, but her spirit was wrong when she complained relative to the task. Martha gave evidence that she needed to sit more at the feet of Jesus that she might learn of Him. Jesus said, "Mary hath chosen that good part." It is better to learn at the feet of Jesus than it is to serve in a temporal way. Undoubtedly, the spirit we manifest while serving will tell more about our spiritual life than anything we may say or do. My Christian friend, more time spent in the secret place of prayer, alone with the Master, will enable us to manifest a Christ-like spirit when we serve.

Also, the spirit of man is manifested in the atmosphere created when we witness for Christ. The last recorded words of Jesus, before His ascension are -- "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem ... and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Since the followers of Jesus Christ are commanded to be witnesses; the importance of this witnessing is self-evident. The spirit of the witness will, in a great measure, determine the results. Peter was the first great witness after Pentecost. He spoke with boldness, yet with a love and sincerity of purpose -- and men believed his message asking, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). "Then Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (v. 38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (v. 41).

The sincere witness of Peter and John, after they had pointed the lame man, who daily lay before the gate of the temple called Beautiful, to the great Physician, and he was made whole, caused five thousand souls to accept Jesus Christ. The spirit of the Apostle Paul -- in prison, in chains, in shipwreck, and even in the hour of death, is keenly felt throughout his inspired writings. Down through the centuries, his spirit has made him beloved by multiplied thousands. His influence has been and is felt around the world.

Paul made an appeal to Timothy that he be an example of the believers in spirit. This same appeal is a challenge to every Christian today. God's call to Moses that he lead his people out of Egyptian bondage was a challenge. The call of Jesus to Peter and Andrew that they leave their nets and become fishers of men, was a challenge. The call of the Son of God that Saul of Tarsus forsake his temporal ambitions to become an ambassador of Jesus Christ, was a challenge.

There is a challenge reaching out to you today; a challenge from the Savior; a challenge from the same Christ who walked the shores of Galilee; a challenge to your heart. The Master pleads that you become an example of the believers in spirit, that those around about you, who know not your Christ, may believe in Him unto their salvation. The Master bids you come and enjoy the blessings which He has in store for His faithful followers, and a final abundant entrance into His eternal Kingdom.

Jesus gave to us the greatest example of a right spirit as He was being betrayed, sentenced, and crucified. At the betrayal, when Peter clipped off the ear of one who would take his Master away, Jesus told him to put up his sword and He promptly healed the one who was wounded. In Pilate's hall they placed a crown of thorns on His head; they spat upon Him; they mocked Him; they smote Him on the head; but He answered not a word. When they had placed Him upon the cruel cross, Jesus looked down upon those who crucified Him, and prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Amidst His physical suffering as He hung on the cruel tree: a dying thief looked into His matchless face and said, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom" (v. 42). Jesus, with His usual compassion, seeing the faith of the thief on the cross by His side, said, "Verily I say unto thee, Today thou shalt be with Me in paradise" (v. 43). The spirit Jesus manifested in those trying hours was so sweet, so forgiving, even, toward His enemies who would take His life, that a centurion, standing by, watching Jesus said, "Truly this was the Son of God." God expects the true Christian to manifest such a spirit under all provocation, until men will say, "Truly he is a child of God."

Our Heavenly Father -- May the spirit which Jesus manifested under all trials, and in all circumstances, be the spirit of all Thy followers, everywhere. Give us of Thy Divine Grace -- that we may be a true example of the believers -- in spirit. Amen.

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## 06 -- BE THOU AN EXAMPLE IN FAITH

As we become conscious of the necessity of a correct relationship on the part of our soul, toward an omnipotent God, we begin to realize the importance of the believer as an example. Not

one of the admonitions given by the Apostle to Timothy can be omitted in the life of the Christian without destroying the personal experience and influence of the believer.

Superseding all else, the gateway to the heart of God is reached by the avenue of Faith. If I lose my faith in God, I have lost all that gives me hope in this world. An unwavering faith in my God will remove obstacles -- yea, even mountains from before my face. It will carry me through trials and give me strength in the hour of sorrow or disappointment. It is my faith in God which doth rescue my soul from the pitfalls of sin, and which gives me a confident hope of eternal life. Strike my faith in God from under me, and you have taken from me the security of my salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

The salvation of the soul of man is accomplished by faith in God. Paul and Silas said to the Philippian jailer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house" (Acts 16:31). To disbelieve in God is to sever every hope of redemption, made possible through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Multiplied thousands, yea millions, with a repentant heart, have cast themselves on the mercy of God, receiving His forgiveness when they believed the promise -- found in 1 John 1:9 -- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." They have found a peace and joy before unknown and have received a consciousness that they are born into the family of God.

In the second place, Faith is the key which unlocks the resources of God, to supply the needs of men. A certain centurion whose servant was sick and ready to die, sent for Jesus to come and heal him. When Jesus neared his home, the centurion sent friends unto Him saying, "Lord, trouble not Thyself: for I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof but say in a word and my servant shall be healed." (Luke 7:6). "Jesus marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (v. 9). "Thy faith hath made thee whole," said Jesus to the woman who touched the hem of His garment.

There is no doubt but that the Christian would be enabled to receive more of the temporal blessings of God, if he should exercise a greater faith. So many people look for results, and would believe if certain results materialize. Being disappointed they often charge God as being unkind, because the results were not received. However, if one will accept the promise, and stand on the promise, God will answer according to His will. "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11). The true Christian will not ask of God selfishly. He will ask according as God wills. Jesus said, "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matt. 21:22). Again Christ said, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13,14).

The faith of the Christian will become tested and tried. James said, "The trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:3-6).

My friends, the believer must be an example in faith, nothing wavering. It is also necessary that the believer put his faith into action. Again James said, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith and hath not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so Faith without works is dead also" (James 2:14-17, 26). The true believer will, not only exercise faith, but will put faith into action by being a doer also. There is no problem or circumstance too hard for God. Sincere prayer, coupled with an unwavering faith, together with doing all humanly possible to do, will accomplish any unselfish task, which is designed to glorify God.

It is your privilege, dear believer, to step out on the promises of God, and, by faith, receive of the manifold blessings of God. It also behooves you to be an example of the believers in faith, that others about you may also believe.

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#### 07 -- BE THOU AN EXAMPLE IN PURITY

The Apostle concluded his exhortation to Timothy by asking him to be an example in purity. Sincerity of heart before God, will reveal a consciousness of purity or lack of purity in heart and life. In order for one to be able to live a pure life, it becomes necessary that one possess a pure heart. A pure heart is a heart which has been cleansed from all sin. A heart whose nature is sinful will result in an impure outward life. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8). Christ recognized that in order to secure pure outward living, the heart, the nature, the center of man must be pure.

When the body, the root of sin is destroyed, the natural thing is, that the believer shall be an example in purity. Therefore, we find that pure living hinges, first, on the purity of heart. Now that the individual has become a follower of Christ in act as well as nature, we see that he becomes a true example of the true Christian. When one becomes an example in Word, he becomes an example in purity. Righteous motives will motivate clean thinking. Clean thinking will instigate pure action. Pure action is the basis whereby one is judged as an example in purity. A proper conduct can only be that which leads to the pathway of purity. A perfect love will create in the heart and mind of the believer a desire to be pure. A right spirit, which takes no offense, is the demonstration of that sweet essence which God places in the human heart when He makes it pure. A Faith which does not waver, will keep the human soul so rooted in God, that God will be able to supply every need, and give sufficient strength to meet every obstacle with a conqueror's tread. These essentials, becoming a vital part of the Christian, lived in their lives from day to day, will be a dynamic force that shall enable every man to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ, when He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

May the blessing of the Triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now, and forevermore. Amen.

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THE END