

# God's Faithfulness

## The Road To Victory

It is a wonderful thing to watch the workings of God in the lives of His redeemed ones. Oh the patience, love and wisdom He uses in the process of "conforming us to His image!" At best we are difficult pupils in the School of God. Why does it take most of us so long to learn?

I have been watching a young man who has only been saved a little over a year and he has grown spiritually many times faster than I did. He simply glows with the joy and victory that God wants all of us to have, yet he's not had a smooth road at all! In contrast, it seems that God usually had to teach me my spiritual lessons with a club. Just think of how it must grieve God who loves us so much, to have to use such drastic discipline.

Yet He has one great objective, and "*He who has begun a good work within you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ...developing and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.*" He will not be deterred from this holy task. He is determined to accomplish what He set out to do in us, and prepare us for that wonderful, eternal, intimate and happy companionship for which He made us, and then redeemed us at so terrible a cost. We are to be His beloved Bride!

In our present condition of spiritual growth, how many among us would feel happy, relaxed and comfortable in His presence, as a bride would be with her husband? Moses wasn't. Isaiah wasn't. John wasn't. These were dedicated, consecrated men to whom God came to converse. Doubtless they had felt they were in fine spiritual shape before this confrontation with a Holy God. Yet all of them reacted like men who were convicted of their utter unworthiness to have direct fellowship with Him. What causes this unworthy feeling? Nothing can separate us from Him but sin. We were made to be His close companions. Adam and Eve never hid from Him until they had sinned - they obviously enjoyed His fellowship before. God so longed for this fellowship to be fully restored that He paid a terrible price to redeem us. Still, most of us with whom He has been working for many years on this Road to Victory would yet feel like Moses, Isaiah and John, if we were to have Him offer us as close a confrontation as they experienced.

*"The heart is deceitful ... and desperately wicked,"* says the Lord, and we are inclined to believe this only of the unsaved and forget how easily our own hearts deceive us. God is too wise to confront us with all the evil that is in our hearts at once. He knows it would overwhelm us, so He turns His "searchlight" on one or two things at a time, and doesn't go on to the next lesson till we have learned this one. How we praise God for His ample provisions for everything the searchlight show up! *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). Then to keep us from complacency, He warns in the next verse, addressed to Christians, *"If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."*

Pride and selfishness are probably the last sins to be fully conquered. They take such subtle forms in us that unless we earnestly desire God to show them up for the villains that they are

(and He will if we mean business), we do not recognize them ourselves. Pride in spiritual attainments is probably the hardest to recognize and conquer. But thank God, any sin that we'll honestly face and admit to Him will be completely forgiven and forgotten by Him as it is confessed and put under the precious cleansing blood of Christ.

Earnest and prayerful cooperation is what God needs of us. This is a divine partnership, this business of purification. Instead of making Him battle with us to be willing to recognize our faults, if we'd keep eagerly seeking His face and asking Him to reveal them to us, we'd make glorious progress. When does an earthly bride cease to enjoy her honeymoon? As soon as her major concern ceases to be the pleasing of her husband and becomes more concerned with his obligations to her. Likewise our Christian progress bogs down in the more subtle forms of selfishness and the keenness of our desire to please Him has been thereby dulled.

This is not His will for us. Anything contrary to the will of God in our lives is sin. Let's be honest enough to face that fact, always, then we will confess our sins and receive His glad forgiveness. He can do nothing for us as long as we make excuses. This is the simple and basic rule for success on the Road to Victory with Him. Let's travel that road in joyful submission, with one great desire uppermost - to PLEASE HIM. Make it a happy road, a road of rejoicing in all He has done for you, all He has promised you, all He plans for you, and more than that, for the glorious and wonderful Person that He is! — Book Fellowship