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Helps for Young Christians.

No. A1.

**SEVEN LINKS
OF HELP
FOR
DAILY GUIDANCE**

BY
G. F. VALLANCE.

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LINKS OF HELP.

DOES the Word of God instruct the Christian as to his manner of living the whole week through? Most certainly it does, and the more we fashion our days according to the Scriptures the greater will be our fulness.

Some may have expected to find service to our Master the chief object of the believer's life. But there is something far more important, and that is **THE SERVANT**. For if the servant is right, the service will also be right and spiritual. And only such will pass the divine test and be rewarded by-and-by.

Seven links of help for daily guidance.

LINK ONE.

First and foremost in my daily life should come the Word of God itself, for it is according to this Book that my life must be moulded. Fellow believers will advise on the one hand and the other, and truly helpful this may prove, but it is always important to do as the Bereans did." "They received the word with all readiness of mind and

searched the Scriptures daily whether those things were so." (Acts xvii. 11). Put everything you are told to the test of the Word of God, and you cannot go far wrong. To Timothy, a comparatively young man, Paul said, "All Scripture is . . . profitable for **DOCTRINE**, for **REPROOF**, for **CORRECTION**, for **INSTRUCTION** in righteousness: that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. iii. 16, 17).

DOCTRINE—to show God's truth.

REPROOF—to show my mistake.

CORRECTION—to show how to adjust my ways.

INSTRUCTION—to show how to continue in the right



The Scriptures are the believer's title deeds to inestimable wealth. As in commercial life deeds of value are carefully studied by their owner to know the extent of his possessions, so in spiritual things we who have been made "joint-heirs with Christ" should ponder our title deeds to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us (1 Pet. i. 4), and the enjoyment of which can be ours NOW by the Holy Spirit.

Do you read *your* Bible DAILY?

Do you SEARCH your Bible DAILY?

It is often said, "I cannot enjoy my Bible as So-and-so does." Let me ask: do you search your Bible daily? If not, begin to do so, and it will be surprising if your love for the Bible does not grow. The more we study, the more we want to; and we feel the lack if a day passes without our handful of sweet manna.

LINK TWO

is a step in advance of Link one. "Blessed is the man that heareth Me,

watching daily at My gates,

WAITING at the posts of my doors" (Prov. xiii. 34). Who is speaking? None other than wisdom personified: the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. "Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching DAILY." How can I hear my Lord speak to me DAILY? Surely through His Word. We noted above that this Link was a step in advance of Link one. It is so, in that as we daily search the Scriptures, Christ is to be the object. Only as we see *Him* in the Word can we understand something of the beauty of the Scriptures. The boy with the jig-saw puzzle puts the different pieces into the complete picture easily as he looks at its picture key. So in

studying the Bible, all the seemingly contradictory and difficult passages fit together when, with our eye upon Christ, we see HIM on every page.

Look for a PERSON, not a creed, nor a religion, nor a rule of life, but CHRIST. As He fills the vision the life will be transformed. The two disciples, recounting their walk to Emmaus, said: "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way?" Let HIM talk to us and our hearts will burn within us. WATCHING and WAITING our verse says. Watching implies looking, whilst waiting speaks of patience. Only patient looking will find the treasures of the Word. For the best gems are found under the surface.

LINK THREE

is found in Psalm lxxxvi. 3 :

"I cry unto Thee daily."

Inseparably linked with searching the Scriptures is PRAYER. These two things go hand in hand, and as we search our Bibles for HIM, we shall pray the more intelligently and earnestly. The man of God is a man of prayer, and daily prayer equips the child of God for the daily conflict. Do you know what it is to PRAY? The disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray." Mere saying of prayers is not praying. Do you repeat daily a set formula, word for word the same, the truth of which has never entered your soul? If so, make a change, and with the Psalmist CRY TO THE LORD DAILY. True prayer has an intensity of purpose; it knows what it has need of and pleads through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Father, laying hold of His love, power and wisdom by faith. More prayer, more power. Be simple, brief,

definite and in earnest, and God will hear and answer.

LINK FOUR.

Give us this day our daily bread.

(Matt. vi. ii). Daily searching, daily prayer and then daily bread. Our text can be a true prayer for temporal needs, but it can also be a prayer for spiritual food. We may read ever so much, but unless we feed upon it there is little profit.

Can I read my Bible without feeding upon it? Yes; sadly possible it is to read chapter after chapter and yet little growth and progress be made. It is not the amount we read, but what we get from our reading, that feeds our souls. To read, mark, learn and inwardly digest is a necessity in spiritual things, for like the ox, we need to feed and then to "chew the cud." Far better to read a few verses well and read them again and again until they are imbedded in our minds, seeking divine light as to their true meaning, than to read a whole chapter without doing so.

A good rule for the young Christian is to take a chapter and learn one or two verses a day consecutively. Scripture learnt in this way is not easily forgotten and is often found to be a help at a most opportune moment. Those who travel by train or bus to their daily work will find that much progress can be made in spiritual things if they practise this rule in the morning and repeat the verses in the train or bus. Let the Word of God get into you and it will work out in your lives. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. Make the Scriptures your own possession and you will be fortified against the wiles of the adversary.

Now for a personal question: What food have you had to-day? "Oh, I have read such an interesting book." But what have you got out of it? "I have read a whole book of the Bible through." But what have you got for yourself as FOOD? We go to meetings, hear helpful addresses, and come away saying what a good time we have had. But how much do we MAKE OUR OWN? How much can you recall of what you heard? That, and that only, has been *food*. Sitting at the table, looking at food and hearing about it, does not feed and build up. Actually eating and taking food into one's body is what gives strength and growth. Do not starve your spiritual life. "He satisfieth the LONGING soul" and fills THE HUNGRY with good things.

At the Passover the blood of the lamb made the children of Israel *safe*. The word of God made them *sure*. The lamb itself was their *food*: three distinct things. In the wilderness the manna fell daily, and they had to gather DAILY, and eat each day's supply that day. Yesterday's manna turned sour. We must gather morning by morning our handful of sweet manna from the Bible itself.

LINK FIVE.

Having now seen that daily food is essential to growth we are ready to consider our next Link, for which the food fits us. A man who does nothing but feed will soon be in a bad condition. Having eaten, he needs exercise. "If any man will come after Me, let Him deny himself, and

take up his cross daily and follow Me."
(Luke ix. 23).

Feeding our souls daily enables us to bear the cross daily. In Luke xiv. we have the great

supper first; *then* we read of the building of the tower and the waging of the war. The angel said to Elijah, "Arise and eat," and then sent him a forty day journey in the strength of it.

Our cross is not bodily affliction or the ordinary trials of life, such as the upsets and disappointments which are common to all men, but what we suffer for Christ's sake. For the true Christian the reproach of Christ is the daily cross, and all such will know something of this. It is to be esteemed greater treasure than the riches of Egypt. It costs an effort to bear a cross and live as a Christian. "Let a man deny himself," the Scriptures say, for self-denial is a true Christian grace.

LINK SIX

is in Hebrews iii. 13.

"Exhort one another daily."

The word here translated "exhort" may well be rendered "encourage." We oftentimes get discouraged because of the way. How much at such times a word of encouragement means! A word of cheer to the runner gives a wonderful impetus, and stimulates to fresh effort. We Christians are in a race which we have to run with patience, laying aside every weight and hindrance and looking unto Jesus, the goal. Along the course, which we all desire to finish well, as the great apostle did, let us encourage one another DAILY. This is to be a daily exercise, and our verse says encourage *one another*. It is not merely preachers and teachers who have to do this. We are all to do it for *one another*. For there is often so much to discourage. With spiritual eyes let us behold one another's Christlike qualities and encourage one another. It is surprising what a smiling

countenance and a cheerful word will accomplish even on the gloomiest of days. Encourage one another *daily*, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

LINK SEVEN.

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits.” (Psa. lxxviii. 19).

What better to finish with than this? Whate'er we do for Him, it can never reach one thousandth part of all that He has done, and does, for us. For He *loadeth* us with benefits. Are we conscious of it? Do you sometimes try to count His benefits, and name them one by one? Make an attempt and you will acknowledge that it comes as a great surprise to find how much the Lord has given you. His loving-kindness is great indeed! He does exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. Thus for all our days and every day this seven-link chain can be our rule :

DAILY SEARCH the Scriptures.

DAILY WATCH for Christ.

DAILY CRY to the Lord.

DAILY FOOD to be gathered.

DAILY CROSS to bear.

DAILY ENCOURAGE one another.

DAILY LOADED with benefits.

G. F. VALLANCE.

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