

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

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CHAPTER SIX

THE LONG JOURNEY WAS SUCCESSFUL

It is well for us to remember that we may gather a crop of tomatoes, or mushrooms, or radishes rather quickly, but we will wait a long time to gather a crop of pecans, or walnuts. So it is in this great business of soul winning. The seed we sow may produce a crop immediately, but on other occasions we may wait a long time for the fruit.

In the case which I am about to relate, this latter truth is evident. I was preaching in an eastern city in a union meeting held in a downtown auditorium. This series of meetings was largely for Christian workers, church officers and other Christian leaders. The messages were along the line of seeing God's blessing on our labors, and realizing God's peace in our souls. I mentioned rather frequently during the week that it would be well for us to examine ourselves and see whether we are in the faith, and are truly born again, or whether we are just professing Christians, with no evidence of eternal life.

It was difficult to get acquainted with the people that were in these meetings, for many of them were working people who did not have much time for visiting, and many of them were quite of the mind that I was talking to someone else, and not to them. I felt rather defeated at the end of the week, for it did not seem to me that there were the results I hoped and expected to see.

One day there entered my office a splendidly dressed gentleman who was evidently a cultured, educated and wealthy man. He introduced himself to me and said that he had just driven in from this eastern city in order to have a visit with me. Five years had elapsed between the time of my meeting, and the time of his visit. He said to me that the reason he had driven over in his car was because he had been rather wretched in his soul during those five years since he had heard me preach in his home town. He mentioned one particular sermon in which I had stressed the fact that if we are saved, and have the gift of eternal life, then we should experience in some measure five things:

- We will love our Bibles constantly,
- We will love the Lord Jesus intimately,
- We will serve the Saviour faithfully,
- We will want to know the Holy Spirit as our teacher devotedly,

- We will love to give the gospel to others wisely.

My visiting friend said that those five things had plagued him since he had heard the message. He had examined his life carefully and found these things mostly wanting. He was an elder in his church, he was serving the church on every occasion where there was a need, and yet his heart was never satisfied, and his soul had no peace or rest. He told me that he finally decided to drive over to see me, even though it was many hundreds of miles. He did not learn whether I was at home, but as he said, "I just took a chance, because I was in such misery in my mind and heart."

I asked my friend if he felt that he was lost. He answered at once, "I have fought against that idea during these five years, but I am brought to the place where I must confess I do not have the knowledge of God, nor the peace of God, and so I must be just a lost, religious hypocrite."

I reminded him that "**The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost**" (Luke 19:10). I assured him that it is the Saviour's delight to find those who want Him, and those who are ready to take Him. My friend had brought a Bible with him, and so he turned to the passage and read it himself; then he asked, "How does He do it? I want Him to save me, and I am ready for Him to do it."

This question from a hungry heart was a joy to my soul. The Holy Spirit had already convinced him of his need, and convicted him of his lost condition, so there was no need for me to present further his lost condition. He saw it, and felt it. And so I began at once to show the sufficiency of Christ to him. I quoted 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.**"

He replied that he knew that verse, and did not disbelieve anything in the Bible. I did not want his mind to be occupied with his believing, but rather with God's giving. I therefore turned to I John 5:12 where we read together, "**He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" I explained to him that it was not a question of believing it was true, but rather a question of whether Christ was his own personal Lord and Saviour. He answered that all he had was a belief in the facts, but that now he was taking Jesus Christ for himself, and giving himself to the Saviour. The peace of God filled his heart, his soul was at rest, trusting the Saviour.

He left that afternoon for the long journey back to his home city, but he went with his heart singing, and his soul filled with the peace that passeth understanding. Shortly afterward he wrote me that he was having a wonderful time with the Lord, and was telling the story to his friends who could easily see the change in his life.

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