

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

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IS GERTRUDE FIRST OR JESUS?

Gertrude was a precious little girl of eight and one-half years old -- the only child of her devoted mother, very attractive in her ways and very beautiful in appearance. She loved the Lord, read often of His love to her in the beautiful new Bible, received as a prize at the Sunday school, was always first in her class for memorizing Bible verses, and devoted to her mother in the home as well.

One day a dreaded disease of childhood struck this beautiful flower, and she was stricken helpless. Day and night the mother and father prayed and watched. They sought the best help obtainable in the medical profession, but it was GOD's will to take this little one home for Himself to raise instead of these parents. Leaving the little body in its last resting place, the distracted mother left the beautiful home to sorrow alone in her grief at the lake-side resort.

Through the kindness of GOD, a Bible conference had been planned in the little village where she was resting and she attended the first service. It was arranged to devote this service to questions and answers. We observed a lady in the audience weeping throughout the service, especially when the question touched on death, or the condition of the soul after death.

Immediately after the meeting, the friend departed. However, I made inquiry of the pastor concerning her. He told me the story of her sorrow and heartbreak, after which we prayed together that our Lord would bring to this troubled heart His own peace, and give her the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. She returned that evening with others of her family, and listened very intently as I sought to tell the friends how the Lord JESUS CHRIST saves from a life of sin here, and saved from an eternity of punishment hereafter.

We observed that the message seemed to be taking hold of her heart, and that there was a attitude of hopefulness and expectancy which told us that the HOLY SPIRIT was dealing with her. She remained a while after the evening meeting, so that I had an opportunity to speak to her personally and to learn a little of the tragedy which had cast her soul into such darkness. Before leaving her, I gave her Ephesians 2:14 -- "**For he is our peace,**" and said to her, "When you have Him, my friend, you will have the peace for which your heart craves. His presence, His Word, His work, all combined, bring peace to the troubled heart."

The next morning, while sitting at breakfast in the home of my host, a phone call came from my friend, Mr. J--, inviting me to accompany her as she took her father and mother out for a drive around the lake in her motor car. "I want to tell you all that is in my heart," she said, "so that you may really help me to find the Lord."

It was only a little while before she drove up to the house. She was weeping when I entered the car, and as we drove out of the village into the country, she told me the story of her loss and sorrow. "I know I am a lost sinner," she said, "because last night in the service you said: "Those who belong to CHRIST want to see their Saviour first of all. They will not put their relatives first, no matter how near and dear they may be. CHRIST will be first to occupy the heart's attention when the soul goes home to glory.' Immediately my heart said: 'I do not want to see JESUS first of all; I want to see my Gertrude. I want to go to Heaven to see Gertrude, not to see JESUS.' That thought, doctor, and the terrible sinfulness of it, crowded out my sleep last night, and I was forced to rise and walk the floor in agony of spirit, because I knew then that JESUS meant very little to me. I became fully persuaded then that I was a lost sinner with no Saviour. This thought has filled my soul with deep sorrow. I must find Him."

Throughout the next two hours, as we were driving along, I called attention to many Gospel verses, dwelling on each one and explaining the work of the Lord JESUS and His love for her. None of these words, however, gave her any peace. She returned for the evening service, and the message for the night was on John 10:9 -- "**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**" I stressed the point of coming personally by faith to the living Lord on the throne and committing the whole soul, sin and life to Him. I pressed home the attitude of heart found in those beautiful words: "Lord, I believe."

This message seemed to take hold of the heart of my sorrowing friend. She left the church without fully trusting CHRIST, but with an attitude of seeking Him. The next morning, about nine o'clock, the telephone rang again, and I heard this joyful message: "At midnight, I knelt at my bedside, and said, 'Lord JESUS, you are more to me than Gertrude. You gave your life for me; you came to save me. You have promised to take me to the FATHER, and I trust you; I believe in you.' I am saved, doctor. I want to see my Saviour first of all." Thus does our Lord bind up the broken heart and heal the wounds of life.

Several letters have been received from this friend, all of them telling the same story of peace and joy in CHRIST, and a soul resting in His eternal love. Whom do you want to see FIRST of all?
