

STRANGE EXPERIENCES OF THE DOCTOR

by

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CHAPTER TWO

A COLLEGE GIRL FOUND GOD

It was my happy privilege one beautiful spring day to address the students in Bertrand College.

The president had extended the invitation to me because of his desire to increase the interest among the students in nature studies. The messages requested, and there were three of them, were "Miracles in Nature," "Strange Habits of Animals," and "Peculiar Habits of Plants." Each of these messages had for its object the exaltation of God in creation. I sought to show that only a living God, having wonderful knowledge and exceptional wisdom, could ever have devised and planned the lives of animals and plants as we see them on every side.

The first message given in this college caused a great deal of comment. It was quite evident that the students had been given to understand in their classes that God had not supervised the creation of plants and animals, but that these had evolved or developed through a long line of circumstances. This line of teaching is quite prevalent in the schools and colleges of our great land. The result of this is to lead the young mind to disregard utterly the thought of a personal God, and to reject completely His laws and His Lordship.

While I was giving these messages in the college each morning, I was preaching each evening in a church building of that city, and a number of the students began to attend. The message which revealed a living God in nature, made them desire to know a living God in their lives. They began to doubt whether they were being taught the truth by their teachers in the school. The indescribable peculiarities of animals and the strange propensities of plants could only be attributed to a living, intelligent, personal God.

My experience with young people reveals plainly the fact that their minds are eager to know the truth, and their good judgment is quite ready to follow the leadership of a clear thinker. When facts are presented to them, they grasp them readily and quickly.

It is not a lack of intelligence that causes our young people to lose their faith while in college; it is a lack of godly leadership enabling them to see the real truth as revealed in God's "outdoor book" and His "indoor book."

The book of nature and the Bible are God's two books by which He produces faith in the soul.

On the second or third night of my meetings one of the students, a young lady about twenty years of age, came to me at the dose of the service in the church house, and requested a private conversation. This audience was readily granted her, and we found seats at one corner of the room where she could talk to me freely about her problem. The question which she propounded was this: "Doctor, how can I know that there really is a personal God? I would like to believe that there is one, and I did believe it until I went to this college. Here my faith has been taken from me, and I have been taught that it is foolish and childish to believe such a tradition. I do not want to be mistaken. Do tell me what proof I may have."

Of course, my heart was deeply stirred as I saw this splendid young lady on the threshold of life, being led astray, and in fact, being directly subverted in her soul by false teaching. The handling of such an inquiring heart is a most delicate matter. We must have wisdom from the Holy Spirit to guide such a seeker into the right path and not hinder or harm that young soul. It is so easy to make a wrong impression that we must be on guard so that no scars may be left, no injury may be made, but rather that the blessing of God's presence shall fall on that inquiring heart.

"Will you come with me, Miss Helen, on an imaginary journey?" I asked.

"Yes, I will be glad to go with you if we may find an answer to my question."

"No doubt we shall find that answer," I replied. "At any rate we shall endeavor to find some analogy in nature that may help to bring the faith your heart desires. We shall go first to Tibet. Our journey will carry us way back into the interior of that country, hundreds of miles from civilization. We shall go out into a district where no white man has ever before ventured, so far as we know. As we are walking through the woods admiring the strange flowers, the peculiar birds, and the wonders of a new-found nature, suddenly we observe, lying just before us in the leaves, a beautiful gold watch. I turn to you and say, 'Helen, how could this be here? Does a watch grow on a tree? Did the various parts come together here in the wilderness and agree to work together as a time-keeper?' What would you say?"

Her reply was given with no hesitation. "I would say, 'No, certainly not. Watches do not grow on bushes; watches are made by men—white men. I notice on the dial that this one was made by an American firm so some man has been through these parts and lost his watch on the journey.'"

"Thank you, Helen," I said. "Let us now take another journey. This time we shall go into the heart of Africa. Our route will be toward the center of the Congo. Again we shall go where no white man has ever been, so far as we know, miles away from any civilization, out in the trackless forest. As we walk along together we are quite surprised to find in front of us among the trees, a grand piano. How astonished we are. Would you think, Helen; that this had happened there by accident? Do pianos grow out of the ground naturally? What would you say?"

By this time Miss Helen was thinking rapidly and to a conclusion. Her answer was just as decided as the one to the former question.

“Certainly not, Dr. Wilson. Pianos do not happen by chance; they are made by Intelligent human beings. It would be necessary for some man to have been there, bringing the piano and leaving it there. It would have to be a civilized man, for natives do not have such instruments.”

Continuing my question, I said, “Helen, suppose the watch was running, and suppose the piano was bright and clean, with no rust and no dirt on it, then what would you say?”

She answered quickly, and with the joy of a new faith lighting her face, “Somebody has been here very recently, or the watch would not be running, and the piano would not be so beautifully polished and preserved.”

“You are right, Helen,” I replied. “You could come to no other conclusion. Will you come with me out on the college campus where we shall find a very interesting little caterpillar? It has many legs and quite a few muscles. All of these are working in perfect order, are alive, are working with each other in perfect coordination, and are supplied with the necessary nerves and blood vessels. As you watch it work and walk would you say, Helen, that that marvellous bit of anatomy and wonderful active organism just happened by chance?”

“Certainly not, Dr. Wilson,” she hastened to reply. Helen was immediately lost in meditation. I said nothing to her for the moment because her mind was carefully considering the facts that she had just acknowledged.

Her mind was getting a new vision. The logic of the argument found a reception in her heart. The conclusion was inevitable. She said, “Dr. Wilson, this is an entirely new line of thought to me. I believe my doubts are clearing up, but I will let you know to-morrow. Good night.”

That evening as I retired to my room, I prayed earnestly to the Holy Spirit to clear up the doubts in the mind of this inquiring young lady. Her soul was precious to God. Her life was at stake for eternity, and the Lord Jesus gave Himself for her redemption. After praying, I felt sure that the Lord would give me this heart for Himself the next day.

During the day that followed I listened for a telephone call from Helen, but none came. I prayed often during the day, looking to our Lord to open her heart and mind as only He can do.

Salvation is not a decision on the part of the sinner. It is an action on the part of the Saviour. He gives eternal life. He blots out the sin stains. He writes the name in the Book of Life. We trust ourselves to Him, and let Him do all the work.

At the evening service that night I saw Helen in the audience listening most attentively. I hoped that she had met the Saviour during the day. It is always a joy to my heart when the soul gets saved alone with the Lord. I know then that there has been no coercion, no undue pressing, no unwise persuasion.

At the close of the service Helen came at once to speak to me.

“I am ready now to be saved,” she said. “I want you to show me just what it means to be saved, for I am sure there is a Living God. I know I have sinned against Him, and I do want His forgiveness. No one could possibly be so blind as to think that there is no God, when all around us are such unmistakable and undeniable evidences of His power, His knowledge, and His love.”

We left the noisy crowd and went over to one corner of the church where we could sit quietly and read the Word together. It is difficult to get the undivided attention of any person in the midst of noise and laughing which detract and distract.

We opened the precious Word of God at Acts 13:38, 39. I asked Helen to read the passage carefully and slowly two or three times. She did so, but received no light and no peace from it. I explained the passage to her as follows: “Helen, you will notice that the Holy Spirit wants you to KNOW something, and it is exactly what you need to KNOW. Your attention is directed to the Man, Christ Jesus. This living, lovely Person is at God’s right hand in His wounded body, waiting and willing to forgive you.

“The word ‘**all**’ includes you. You are invited to believe in that blessed One. You are called, by God, to put your trust in the Lord Jesus, Who is able to forgive and to justify because of His finished work at Calvary. The moment you trust your soul to Him, Helen, the sins are gone, and you belong to the Saviour and have the gift of eternal life. Now please read the passage again; read it carefully, and apply it to your own heart.”

Our young friend was moved and stirred by the thought of applying this truth in this way. I saw the clouds disappearing from her face. I saw the tears of thankfulness filling her eyes as she said, “I do trust Him, Dr. Wilson. He is my own personal Lord, and I know He saves to-night. How I will love Him for it! I was nearly engulfed in the unbelief of my heart and the doubts that filled my soul. How I do thank God that He did not let me go on in that path! I shall certainly love Him and trust Him forever.”

Beloved friend, do not permit the infidelity of our day, the ungodly teaching in some of our schools, and the wicked reasonings of some men, to cause you to lose your soul. You, too, should hurry to this Saviour and present yourself to Him for salvation and forgiveness.

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