

Rest in God

No matter what God teaches me, it seems always to return to the need of always resting in Him. Anything else, anything less, appears to me to be self-effort and self-righteous good works. It isn't God, it's ultimately still me.

Then comes the reality that I can't rest in the Lord if I won't trust Him to be always able and willing to meet my every need, no matter how impossible it may appear to be.

And I can't trust Him if I'm not willing to accept whatever He sends my way, no matter how apparently objectionable, even hurtful it may be. I must be willing to see every circumstance as ultimately . . . in the light of eternity . . . not only good for me, but the very best possible

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. . . All things work together for good to them that love God. . . I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content."

We must be willing to let God do absolutely whatever He wants to do with our lives without objection. Just quietly let go whatever circumstances are into God's hands. Let control go absolutely and totally from our hands into His. Have no will but His will.

Anything less than this I tend to see as either self-effort or mere intellectual knowledge or theology, and entirely ineffectual.

HAVE FAITH

After the great missionary statesman, Hudson Taylor, had founded the China Inland Mission to be the first to take the gospel to untold millions in inland China, after he had experienced a dynamic new life in Christ, after he had buried his wife and two of his children in China, after he in China was separated from the rest of his deeply-loved children in England, after he had returned to England only to have to direct the mission's affairs from his bed, after he was back in China often near death and having buried a number of his missionaries there, after having for many years trusted God alone for the funds to meet the vast needs of a growing mission at home and in China while the quickest communication between them was more than two months, after having seen many of his godly dreams fulfilled in the opening of inland China to the gospel, he testified: "One of the happiest periods of my life was that period of forced inactivity, when one could do nothing but 'rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him,' and see Him meeting all one's needs."

On one occasion when he was informed that serious rioting was threatening two of his mission stations, he was heard to whistle, "Jesus I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art; I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart,"

When questioned, he said, "Would you have me anxious and troubled? That would not help them and would certainly incapacitate me for my work. I have just to roll the burden on the Lord."