

Joy over One Sinner Rescued !

“Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. The greater the sinner's guilt, the more he needs the Saviour. **His heart of divine love** and sympathy is drawn out most of all for the one who is the most hopelessly entangled in the snares of the enemy. With His Own blood He has signed the emancipation papers of the race. {MH 89.3}

Quote -

“**By sin we have been** severed from the Life of God. Our souls are palsied. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking. Many realize their helpless-ness; they are longing for that spiritual life which will bring them into harmony with God, and are striving to obtain it. But in vain. In despair they cry, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24, margin.

Let these desponding, struggling ones look up. The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, "**Wilt thou be made whole?**" He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe the Saviour's Word. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His Word you will receive strength. **Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion** which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart Life to the soul that is “dead in trespasses.” Ephesians 2:1. He will set free the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin.

The sense of sin has poisoned the springs of life. But Christ says, “I will take your sins; I will give you *My* peace. I have bought you with My blood, and you are Mine. My grace shall strengthen your weakened will; your remorse for sin I will remove.” When temptations assail you, when care and perplexity surround you, when, depressed and discouraged, you are ready to yield to despair, **look to Jesus**, and the darkness that encompasses you will be dispelled by the bright shining of His presence.

When sin struggles for the mastery in your soul, and burdens the conscience, **look to the Saviour**. His grace is sufficient to subdue sin. Let your grateful heart, trembling with uncertainty, turn to Him. Lay hold on the hope* (assurance) set before you. Christ waits to adopt you into His family. His strength will help your weakness; He will lead you step by step. Place your hand in His, and let Him guide you. {MH 85.1}

Never feel that Christ is far away. He is always near. His loving presence surrounds you. Seek Him as One Who desires to be found of you. He desires you not only to touch His garments, but to walk with Him in constant communion.

– Ministry of Healing, p.84-86

Quote -

“Have you, dear reader, chosen your own way? Have you wandered far from God? Have you sought to feast upon the fruits of transgression (rebellion), only to find them turn to ashes upon your lips?

And now, your substance spent, your life-plans thwarted, and your hopes dead, do you sit alone and desolate? Now [Today] that voice which has long been speaking to your heart but to which you would not listen comes to you distinct and clear, **“Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest _____ (your name); because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.”** Micah 2:10. Return to your Father’s house. He invites you, saying, **“Return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee.”** Isaiah 44:22

Do not listen to the enemy’s suggestion to stay away from Christ until you have made yourself better; until you are good enough to come to God. If you wait until then, you will never come. When Satan points to your filthy garments, repeat the promise of Jesus, **“Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.”** John 6:37. **Tell the enemy** that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Make the prayer of David your own, **“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”** Psalm 51:7 and Isaiah 1:18-19.

– Christ Object Lessons, p.205

Quote -

“Many who have been overcome by temptation are humiliated by their failures, and they feel that it is in vain for them to approach unto God; but **this thought is of the enemy’s suggestion.** When they have sinned, and feel that they cannot pray, tell them that it is then the time to pray. Ashamed they may be, and deeply humbled; but as they (you) confess their sins, He Who is faithful and just will forgive their (you for your) sins and *He will* cleanse them (you) from all unrighteousness.

Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits*(worthiness) of the Saviour. By prayer, by the study of His Word, **by faith in His abiding presence** (because He says so), the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ (Romans 6:1-11), and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go.

These precious words every soul that abides in Christ may make his own. He may say:

“I will look unto the LORD;

I will wait for the God (Mighty One) of my Salvation:

My God will hear me.

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy:

When I fall, I shall arise;

When I sit in darkness,

The Lord shall be a Light unto me.” – Micah 7:7-8.

“He will again have compassion on us,

He will blot out our iniquities;

Yea, Thou wilt cast all our sins into the depths of the sea !”

– Micah 7:19

God has promised you:

“I will make a man more precious than fine gold;

Even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.”

– Isaiah 13:12.

“Though ye have lain among the pots (like a harlot),

Yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver,

And her feathers with yellow gold !”

– Psalm 68:13

Those whom Christ has forgiven most will love Him most. These are they who in the final day will stand nearest to His throne. And . . . “They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.” Revelation 22:4.

– Ministry of Healing, p.182

Quote -

The sheep that has strayed “from the fold is the most helpless of all creatures. It must be sought for by the shepherd, for it cannot find its way back. So with the soul that has wandered away from God; he is as helpless as the lost sheep, and unless divine love had come to his rescue he could never find his way to God.

The shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing does not look carelessly upon the flock that is safely housed, and say, “I have ninety and nine, and it will cost me too much trouble to go in search of the straying one. Let him come back, and I will open the door of the sheepfold, and let him in.” **No . . .**

No sooner does the sheep go astray than the shepherd is filled with grief and anxiety. He counts and recounts the flock. When He is sure that one sheep is lost, He slumbers not. He leaves the ninety and nine within the fold, and goes in search of the straying sheep. The darker and more tempestuous the night and the more perilous the way, the greater is the shepherd’s anxiety and the more earnest his search. He makes every effort to find that one lost sheep.

With what relief he hears in the distance its first faint cry. Following the sound, he climbs the steepest

heights, he goes to the very edge of the precipice, [at the risk of his own life](#).

Thus he searches, while the cry, growing fainter, tells him that his sheep is ready to die. **At last his effort is rewarded**; the lost is found. [Then he does not scold it because it has caused him so much trouble. He does not drive it with a whip. He does not even try to lead it home. In his joy he takes the trembling creature upon his shoulders; if it is bruised and wounded, he gathers it in his arms, pressing it close to his bosom, that the warmth of his own heart may give it life.](#) With gratitude that his search has not been in vain, he bears it back to the fold.

Thank God, He has presented to our imagination no picture of a sorrowful shepherd returning without the sheep. The parable does not speak of failure but of success and joy in the recovery. [Here is the divine guarantee](#) that not even one of the straying sheep of God's fold is overlooked, not one is left unsuccored (un-rescued). Every one that will submit to be ransomed, Christ will rescue from the pit of corruption and from the briers of sin.

Desponding soul, take courage, even though you have done wickedly. **Do not think that perhaps** God will pardon your transgressions* (rebellion and apostasy) and permit you to come into His Presence. God has made the first advance. While you were in rebellion against Him, [He went forth to seek you](#). With the tender heart of the shepherd He left the ninety and nine and went out into the wilderness to find that which was lost. The soul, bruised and wounded and ready to perish, He encircles in His arms of love and joyfully bears it (you back) to the fold of safety.

It was taught by the Jews that before God's love is extended to the sinner, he must first repent. In their view, repentance is a work by which men earn the favor of Heaven. And it was this thought that led the Pharisees to exclaim in astonishment and anger. "This man receiveth sinners." According to their ideas He should permit none to approach Him but *only* those who had repented.

But in the parable of the lost sheep, Christ teaches that **Salvation does not come** through our seeking after God but through God's seeking after us. ["There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way \(path\)."](#) Romans 3:11, 12. We do not repent in order that God may love us, but He reveals to us His love in order that we may repent.

When the straying sheep is at last brought home, the shepherd's gratitude finds expression in melodious songs of rejoicing. He calls upon his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost (ref: Luke 15:6 and Zephaniah 3:14-17)." So when a wanderer is found by the great Shepherd of the sheep, heaven and earth unite in thanksgiving and rejoicing.

"Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance . . . !" ref: Luke 15:7-10