

They shall mount up... WINGS WINGS with wings



[From September 1948]

Dear Young People (and now much older)

"The summer is ended" (Jeremiah 8:20) or at least almost so, and we do hope that you will not have to use the last part of the verse, "and we are not saved." Perhaps some reading these papers have recently given their hearts to the Lord. We're sure that you will agree that it was a happy day for you. Maybe you have been to a Bible Conference this year, and have had the pleasure of being with other Christian young people. No doubt you were sorry to part company with those you had so much in common with. But these good things cannot go on indefinitely down here, so now you are ready to go back to school, or perhaps you're returning to work from a vacation.

After being away from ungodly friends for a time it is hard, especially for those who have a deep love for the Lord to go back to their midst. What an unkindness for the most part there is with those of the world. They have little consideration for others, and their talk is not pleasant to listen to. The apostle rightly described them when he said, "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18. How much we see this on every hand, when men and women, and

as eagles. Isaiah 40:31

> even little children curse, using the Lord's name in vain.

> God's Word is, "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7. Seeing "That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36), how much greater shall be the punishment of those that use God's name in an unholy manner.

> In a way it is easy to understand why profanity is so common today. Recently we heard a figure given, that about only 20 percent of all children under the age of 16 were going to Sunday School. Think of that, only one in five hearing about the Lord Jesus and His love for them. It only shows how bad the heart is and that if people don't know Jesus as their Saviour, how wicked they can be. If the gospel had not been preached to us so that we believed in God and took Christ as our Saviour, we would be just the same as all the rest of the people.

ls a Christian no better than an unsaved person? Well what is the difference then? "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." 2 Cor. 5:17. Not only does the old desire to sin, but there are new desires, to do the things that



God would have him to do. That is the difference, and even though unsaved people might try to do good, they do not have the power to continue in it.

Now as you mingle with the people of the world once more, there will be a desire to do the things they do, and say the things they say. There will be opportunities to go to parties and in other ways mingle with those around you, and it should be with care that you accept such offers. Remember, if you have professed to be a Christian, your friends and schoolmates will be watching you and so you must be cautious not to dishonor the Lord, Who bought you with His own blood.

The very people who might want you to come to their parties, if they have not accepted the Saviour, are in reality your enemies. Here is a good verse to keep in mind, "If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:19. Men hated and killed the Saviour, and they would do the same to us, His disciples, if they could.

So do as the Lord cautioned His disciples, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." If even the smallest evidence of displeasing that Blessed One who died for you shows in what you do or say, be quick to ask Him for strength to tum away from doing it. In saying this, we have in mind especially the use of expressions called "by-words". Many of them have the same meaning of the words the world uses which we would not think of using. Think of a Christian using the expression "Golly" or "Gosh" meaning God; or "Heck" meaning hell. Some use the expression "for heavens sake," or "for land's sake. God expressly forbids the use of such expressions when he says "swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth." If we turn to such expressions to give vent to our feelings or to appear important, it may not be long till we say the words really meant, so let us pray, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19:14.

If in the past, it has been our habit to either use minced oaths or expressions that we now know are displeasing to the Lord, let us not be overcome with remorse or sorrow, thinking that we can't be forgiven. Jesus gives reassurance in this, when he says, "Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme," Mark 3:28. We know it is hard when working amongst those who use oaths not to take on their expressions. It may be

that you are exercised about using these expressions, and are seeking to overcome the habit. You may find it quite difficult at first to keep from uttering those words which you would not. Don't be discouraged if you have a slip of the tongue, but each time let it bring you afresh to the throne of grace to find help in this time of need. We have found it helpful after hearing profanity to confess to the Lord that we have been defiled, and ask Him to keep these words from re-entering our minds.

We trust that all those reading these lines will be given much strength to live a Christian life as they go on from day to day. Sincere Christian love to all.

> Saviour, we long to follow Thee, Daily Thy cross to bear, And count all else, whate're it be, Unworthy of our care.

We are not now our own, but Thine, The purchase of Thy blood, And made, by grace and love divine, The sons and heirs of God.

Thy Spirit, too, the present seal
Of all the Father's love,
Dwells in our souls and does reveal,
The glorious rest glorious rest above.

Thy life is now beyond the grave;
Our souls Thou hast set free;
Life, strength, and grace in Thee we have,
For we are one with Thee.

O teach us so the pow'r to know Of risen life with Thee; Not we may live while here below, But Christ our life may be.

-J.G. Deck

In His service,

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