

Good Words for Every Day of the Year,  
Good Words, 1860. Editor, Norman MacLeod, DD.  
Edinburgh: Alexander Strahan and Co. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

August 29.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." --Deut. vi. 5.

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength." -- Ps. xviii.1.

He who has called us to love Him, can alone give us strength to do so, and enable us to add our fervent Amen to the holy resolution of David. "In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing," how then can so holy a thing as the love of God dwell in me? It must be implanted by the Holy Spirit. It must grow in a soil of faith; it must be produced by such a revelation of the wondrous love of God in Christ, as may melt the icy coldness of nature, and turn all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, into a channel of love to the Lord my God. A father does not care for the service of his child unless it proceeds from a loving heart, and it is to the heart that our heavenly Father looks, not merely to the outward service of hand or lip; we may wish to *show* love by keeping His commandments, but without love we *cannot* keep them, for love is the first and great command; may He enable us to keep it by shedding abroad His love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us!

" 'Tis *love* that makes our cheerful feet  
In swift obedience move;  
The devils know and tremble too,  
But Satan cannot love."

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## August 30

"I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the watercourses." -- Isa. xlv. 3, 4.

Am I indeed *thirsting* for the water of life, the precious gift of the Spirit? then let me take encouragement from this promise, and believe that God, who heard in the desert the voice of the outcast perishing child Ishmael, is as willing to hear my voice now, and to "pour water upon him that is thirsty" in no stinted measure, but in *floods* of refreshing. The Holy Spirit is His gift through Christ. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." All his efforts to cleanse his polluted heart will be in vain, unless the Spirit of God himself acts upon him, and leads him to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. How precious then is the promise of the Spirit offered so freely, poured forth so bounteously! Let me go with it; let me go in faith, *nothing wavering*, and seek for myself, for my friends, for all within my reach, such a pouring forth of the Spirit as is here so graciously offered.

"My stock lies dead, and no increase  
Doth my dull husbandrie improve,  
O let thy graces, without cease,  
Drop from above!"

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August 31.

"He ever liveth to make intercession for them." -- Heb. viii. 25.

"Christ . . . who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." -- Rom. viii. 34.

What a thought is this to put strength into my heart, that while I am struggling feebly on my way, beset with temptations, surrounded with infirmities, and often cast down with sore discouragements, there is One even now at the right hand of God making intercession for me! One far above saint or angel, even He before whom saints cast their crowns, and angels veil their faces! He "maketh intercession," knowing all my wants, and knowing all my sorrows. He sees every difficulty, and trial on my way, and He is "not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." He knows what I need of strength, what I require of discipline, and what of "reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness;" and knowing all this He "maketh intercession." Oh, if we could hear that intercession going on for us in the sanctuary above, how would it read to us the secrets of God's dealings with us? How would it reveal the cause of many a trial sent in wise love to our souls! How would it explain many an unlooked for refreshment by the way which comfort was needed. How would it strengthen us to trust Him for the future!

"Though faint my prayers, and cold my love,  
My steadfast hope shall not remove  
While Jesus intercedes above."