

"Use Your Wings"

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Some time ago I caught a small insect, a tiny beetle, and guarded it carefully on all sides will preparing to examine it closely. But it suddenly surprised me by unfolding a pair of tiny wings that had been concealed, and mounting up above my head, out of reach and sight in a second.

Many times since, I have thought of this incident, when apparently caught in one of the enemy's trap, and hedged about on all sides, unable to escape in any direction except upward. Then these beautiful words from the pen of Mrs. E. G. White, a writer well known to the readers of PRESENT TRUTH, have come as an inspiration: "The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise" (Steps to Christ, p. 104). A vigorous use of these wings soon carries us out of the enemy's reach, above the mist and fog that veil the glory of the Lord, into the clear sunlight of His presence. How many of the Psalms, beginning in a sorrowful strain, the utterance of one cast down and sorely beset with temptation and trial, break out into praise and thanksgiving to God as the soul ascends, like the sweet notes of the lark rising skyward, and end with a triumphant song of victory, like that of a bird escaped out of the snare of the fowler. For example, take Psalm 69:

Save me, O God!
 For the waters have come up to *my* neck.
 I sink in deep mire, where *there is* no standing;
 I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.

and continuing in this strain till at last the struggling soul finds a way out of the "deep mire" and the "deep waters:"

But I *am* poor and sorrowful;
 Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high.
 I will praise the name of God with a song,
 And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
This also shall please the Lord ...
 Let heaven and earth praise Him,
 The seas and everything that moves in them.
 For God will save Zion

Here the spirit of heaviness is exchanged for the garment of praise, and through praise the soul finds the salvation of the Lord that sets him up on high. This is a demonstration of Ps. 50:23: —

"Whoever offers praise glorifies Me;
 And to him who orders *his* conduct *aright*
 I will show the salvation of God."

There are many instances of deliverance directly due to praise when no way of escape seemed possible. They are given in the Scriptures to teach us how we may break through the snares of

Satan, and escape out of the snare of the fowler. Paul and Silas “prayed and sang praises to God” at midnight, and the earthquake resulted, opening their prison doors and bringing the jailer to their feet in terror.

When Jehoshaphat’s ‘choir/army’ “began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.” and “no one had escaped.” (Read 2 Chron. 20).

Let us keep “the wings of praise” in constant exercise, ascending on them into the clear atmosphere of heaven. Then they will be ready for any emergency, and we can “fly away and be at rest” in God, even while walking in the midst of trouble.

When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John from their fishing nets, it was not with the words, “Come to Me, and I will save you,” although they were sinners, and they needed the salvation which He had for them, and which He offers to all. But He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They left all, and followed Him, and were prepared for service by: *the pruning off of their bad habits, cleansing them from sin, and filling them with the Holy Spirit.*

The strongest incentive one can have *to be cleansed and kept from sin* is not the thought that the sin will result in the loss of the soul, but that it will cause the loss of some other soul.

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