



## THE KEEPING POWER OF CHRIST.

NOW, therefore, we are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." What a privilege to know we *are* of the household of God! How do we *become* members of this household? "Not of works, lest any man should boast." It is the *gift* of God; for "Behold what manner of love the Father hath *bestowed* upon us, that we should be called the *sons of God.*" "We are heirs of God, and joint heirs with

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Christ." Unlike an earthly heir, the heir of God comes into possession of his inheritance at once. The moment we "believe," we "have eternal life." We have it now. "He hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." Oh what a blessing this little word, "hath," brings to the soul! God says it. "We have known and *believed* the love that God hath to us;" and "Those things which are revealed belong unto us, and to our children forever."

Therefore, being His children, is it not our blessed privilege to live as He has commanded, and "walk as children of light"? For "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world." Oh, how my heart once yearned to *know* this "victory that overcometh

the world"! I remember a few years ago in reading 2 Thess. ii., I came to the 13th verse, where Paul says, "We are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth." *Through sanctification of the Spirit.* Here I paused, and read it over and over again; praying that God would sanctify me wholly by the Spirit. This verse comforted me many, many days. I felt that it was blessed to my soul, but the fullness of its meaning was not yet revealed to me. The inward currents of my heart were not stayed: I could not "*stand fast*," therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free;" for I was "entangled again."

and again "with the yoke of bondage." I could not "reckon" myself "dead" to the perplexities and irritations of daily life, which a heart yearning for purity condemns as dishonoring to God. More earnestly than ever, and many times a day, I prayed for strength to overcome; but found no rest in my soul until I stopped praying for *strength* to overcome, and *gave myself wholly to God to be kept*. At this time the Lord's Prayer became a new and wonderful revelation to me; I found, in its closing words, the full warrant for thus casting myself wholly on the Lord for deliverance. "And lead us not into temptation, but *deliver us from evil*. For Thine is the *kingdom*, and the *power*, and the *glory*, forever, Amen." Oh, how my soul was filled, as I realized for the first time

that it was His *power* that was to keep me! "for Thine *is* the power."

The work was all done then: no more striving, no more praying for *strength* to overcome, but simply, day by day, —

"Jesus *keep* me, for Thine is the power and the glory;" and there I *rest and am kept*.

I give this little record of personal experience, hoping that many who desire, but have not gained, "the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith," as they pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power," may realize in its fullness that the *power* belongs to Him who says, He is "able to keep you from falling."

8 THE KEEPING POWER OF CHRIST.

“Now, the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. xiii. 20, 21.)



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