

P E R F E C T T R U S T

By Anna W. Prosser

TRUST in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

THERE is a partial trust and an entire trust, and there may be a partial surrender and an unconditional surrender. From the time that the sinner feels his lost condition, and turns to the Lord in true penitence, asking that for Christ's sake he may be forgiven and accepted, he has some trust in Him, some love for Him, some glimpse of His power to save. He receives the witness of the Spirit that his sins are forgiven, that he is adopted into the family of God. He experiences much joy, and, at times, great peace. He tells on the right hand and on the left that he has met with a change of heart, and that he has "passed from darkness unto light," and exhorts his family and his friends to come to Christ. He begins to work zealously for the Master, and shows by his earnest life that he is a changed man, that he has new impulses and desires. His countenance is full of life and joy, and we rejoice with him in his newfound happiness.

He proceeds along the Christian path a few brief months, manfully facing the enemy, praying and struggling to overcome the many temptations, which meet him on either hand. But, lo, presently we see him coming into our midst with a clouded and downcast face. When questioned as to the cause, he is constrained to admit that his peace has flown. In spite of his struggles, his prayers, and his tears, he finds it impossible to conquer

the adversary, as he should. He is astonished to find that he has yielded to his suggestions and fallen into the very sin against which he fancied himself most strongly fortified. He tells us that he has mourned and wept over it before the Lord, and started anew with fresh vigor and resolution to run the race set before him, only to find himself again defeated. And thus he has gone on, striving and failing, sinning and repenting, until he is forced to cry out, in the anguish of his soul: "When I would do good, evil is present with me. For that which I do, I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. I delight in the law of God after the inward man, but I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members. O, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7)

"Is this all," he cries, "that Christianity offers? Is there no liberty, no freedom from sin in this life? I long for something higher than this. Is there no greater deliverance than I have found? I am disheartened and weary of this continued warfare in my soul, weary of this captivity. I long for a full salvation. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The words come to his mind: "Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass!"

"Yes," says this troubled soul, "but have I not trusted in Him from the first? "

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart," the Spirit replies, "and lean not unto thine own understanding." The blessed light breaks in! He sees that he has fought many times in his own strength, that he has dishonored God by a very feeble and fluctuating trust. He has trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of his sins, but he has been afraid to trust Him to keep him steadfast unto the end! He has asked Him daily to keep him from evil, but has only half believed that He would! He has trusted largely to his own persistent efforts, leaned many times unto his own understanding. He has not ventured all upon Jesus; given Him all his heart; he has not trusted Him to "save to the uttermost," and so it has been unto him according to his trust. See him now, coming with "a broken and contrite heart," to the feet of the Lord. He is worn and scarred with repeated battles with the enemy, and crushed by many a defeat. He comes with a sense of his own nothingness, and cries, out of a full heart "O Lord Jesus, I come to Thee! I can do nothing at all! I see it all now. I see that I have only half trusted Thee, but have trusted in my own works and struggles many times, rather than in Thy cleansing blood! I have leaned unto my own understanding, and have thus frustrated Thy grace in my heart. Thy grace is sufficient' for me! I see that it is. My precious Savior, I do now trust Thee fully. I here dedicate myself to Thee, and trust Thee to save me perfectly, and to cleanse

me day by day from all sin; "for THINE IS the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Beloved reader, does this touch a responsive chord in your heart? Have you felt such longings for full liberty in Christ? Are you frequently, in your Christian experience, brought to realize your need of a deeper trust? Then may the Holy Spirit "take of the things of Christ and show them unto you" and "guide you into all truth," by revealing to your hungering soul that He is worthy of all our trust, and that He cannot, He will not, "abide" in a doubting, divided heart. All that the believer has to do is to trust in Jesus. It is His province to save, to cleanse and to keep. " For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken. (Proverbs 3:26)

" Simply trusting, every day,
Trusting thro' a stormy way,
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all!

Brightly doth His Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine,
While He leads, I cannot fall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all!"