

THE GRIP THAT HOLDS

"Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." Psalm 139:10.

The unseen hand of God is the only grip upon the human soul that will give peace and contentment, joy and understanding. The grip of God is the only grip that will give an equilibrium to life.

Education will not do it. I would not lessen esteem for education for it is of great importance in the lives of young people today who will be called upon to face the problems of tomorrow. But an education alone is not sufficient to give one the steadying power he needs. Education alone is not sufficient for the human soul.

Morality will not do it. You may be moral, upright, honest, and pay your debts, but without some power within and without in your life, under extreme temptations you will not be able to face them.

A Christian home is not sufficient. When you come to the place where you realize that you have sinned against God, then the second birth, or regeneration, must take place in your life. With regeneration God takes a grip upon the human soul, and His grip is sufficient to give you the understanding of life that every soul needs.

Train the mind of a child and neglect the spiritual and you may have a thief, a drunkard, or a liar, and yet you have a masterful mind. Train the body physically to the neglect of the spiritual and you may have a master mind, a strong, stalwart physical body, well-proportioned, and yet without the guiding hand of God that body is apt to lead you into a snare as it did Saul of old, who said, "I have played the fool."

I. The Hand of God Holds Us From What?

1. From a life of sin.

If it were not for His grip upon our lives, what would our lives be? When temptations come thick and fast, His grip leads us from temptation and gives us the power to overcome. Temptations will come to all. But it is God's hand that holds us. Some say they are afraid they cannot hold out. We are not the ones to hold out. God gives power to overcome and to live victorious lives.

2. From a life of failure.

Many seeking greatness, success, and prestige leave God out of their lives. The saddest mistake any one ever made was to leave Him out. Some of the world's greatest and most renowned business men are devout Christians. They testify that it is the grip of God that helps them to be victorious and successful in life. If you want to go down, turn your back on God. If you want to go up, face the cross of Christ. You cannot measure success by dollars. Success is the power of influence you have for God and righteousness in the lives of those with whom you come in contact. Some get meager salaries, and yet are powers for God.

3. From a life of sorrow.

God's people are the only ones who can smile amid their tears, laugh amid their sorrows, and be calm in the storm. They are the only ones who can say, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." If it were not for the grip of the unchangeable hand of God, life with its bruises for our feet, scars for our hearts, burdens for our backs, would be miserable and wretched. Where would our faith stand, with all of our sorrows heaped upon us and with disappointments on every hand, as we follow the casket to the cemetery, if it were not for the abiding power of God, the grip that holds? One standing beside the casket of her baby said, "If it were not for the grip of God I couldn't stand it. Thank God, He gives me grace and courage in my sorrow."

II. The Hand of God Holds Us to What?

1. An eternal salvation. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. Thank God that when He took a grip upon my soul, He gave me life, life everlasting, an eternal salvation. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. God promises life everlasting. "For I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." II Timothy 1:12.
2. A life of service. Some make the mistake of thinking that God saved them so that they might sit down and fold their hands and go on their way rejoicing in the grace of God, without doing anything in the Kingdom. But if God saved you, He saved you for service. His purpose in saving you is a life of service. Some will shout and praise God because salvation doesn't cost them anything. No, salvation does not cost anything to accept it, but it costs you something if you live it. The greatest price you have ever paid for anything is what you pay to live a Christian life. The grip that holds has helped many to carry on under trying and discouraging circumstances. We should resolve that "we are going to fight for God and live for Him as long as we have power." God saves us and holds us to lives of eternal salvation and service.

I appeal to the unsaved to surrender your lives into the hand of the Master. Then you will be able to say with the Psalmist, "Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."