When Tigranes ransomed his wife from the victorious Roman general, Pompey, people wondered what the beautiful woman had thought of her splendid captor. She had witnessed his might and show, standing close to the victor as he reviewed his army. “Why, I did not even see him,” she replied in surprise to those who questioned how she had resisted Pompey’s charms.

“Where were your eyes?” her friends inquired.

“Upon him who said he would give ten thousand talents for my ransom—my husband, Tigranes.”

Like this steadfast woman, we, too, may resist the glitter of the world and the lure of the flesh by looking, in the time of temptation, to the One who has redeemed us, even to Jesus. He has ransomed us, not with corruptible silver and gold, but with His own precious blood, which was shed for our sins.—By Ashley G. Emmer, Signs of the Times, November 10, 1936.

Quote: “If the crumbs that fall from the table are so sweet, what will the great loaf in glory be?”—Unknown, Signs of the Times, July 13, 1926.

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Dr. A. J. Gordon frequently told the story of an American who with an Englishman was viewing Niagara Falls. Taking the Englishman to the foot of the falls, the American said, “There is the greatest unused power in the whole world.”

The Englishman replied, “No, no, my friend. The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God.”—By Zula Evelyn Coon, These Times, March 1959.

Quote: “Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”—By John Wesley, These Times, July 1972.

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Some years ago Mrs. S. M. I. Henry, the noted temperance worker and national evangelist for the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, was holding a meeting in an Eastern town. She had delivered a powerful address on temperance. The presiding officer stepped forward when the meeting was over and congratulated her, saying, “What is the secret of that great address you have delivered before us tonight?”

Mrs. Henry replied, “The secret of my power is God.”

The presiding officer immediately looked a little dismayed, and said, “God? That is somebody I do not know.”

“Oh, don’t you believe in God?” Mrs. Henry exclaimed.

He answered: “I have not believed in God for many years. I was brought up in the church, but, when a young man, I was disillusioned by seeing so many people in the church that I felt were out-and-out hypocrites. So I left the church. I was elected to a judgeship, and as I went from place to place on my circuit I filled my bag with books on skeptical ideas—books written by Tom Paine, Bob Ingersoll, and similar authors. After some time I became thoroughly convinced that there is no God, and I have been preaching it and arguing for it now for years.”

Mrs. Henry felt very much distressed when she heard this, and she said to the judge, “Would you like to believe in God?”

“Well, there is no way out,” was the answer.

“If you will go home and get down on your knees and pray about it, I am sure the Lord will reveal Himself to you,” Mrs. Henry said.

His reply was: “How can I pray to somebody I do not believe exists?”

“Well, judge,” said Mrs. Henry, “I want you to swear me in.”

“I don’t need to swear you in, Mrs. Henry,” said the judge; “I’ll take your testimony without an oath.”

“Then will you give me your testimony: I know there is a God,” she said earnestly and solemnly.

“I don’t see how that can help me,” answered the judge.

But Mrs. Henry replied: “Might I not know somebody that you don’t know? If I were to come into your courtroom and say that I know a certain individual, would you maintain that I couldn’t know him because you didn’t know him?”

The judge said: “No, you might know somebody I didn’t know.”

Then Mrs. Henry continued: “I want to tell you that I know God; and upon the basis of my testimony that I know God will you go home and pray to God and ask Him to reveal Himself to you?”

“I’ll do it,” was the wholehearted answer.

The judge went to his room and got down upon his knees and began to pray. “God,” he said, “if there be a God,--and Mrs. Henry says there is a God,—I pray Thee reveal Thyself to me.”

He hadn’t prayed very long before the revelation came to him, and he knew that God actually existed as much as he knew that the sun had risen that morning. The only thing that worried him was that he was loath to go forth and tell his friends that he had been mistaken for so many years about the existence of God. He struggled over it for some time, but he finally said: “I told Mrs. Henry that if I found God I would tell the story to my friends, and I’ll do it!” He rose to his feet, and went out. As he was going down the street, Mrs. Henry met him, and she exclaimed, “Judge, don’t tell me anything! I know that you have found Him. I can see it in your face!”

That man’s faith never wavered, and he was a mighty factor in building up the kingdom of Christ until the day of his death.—By Charles T. Everson, Signs of the Times, September 12, 1939.

Quote: “Prayer is the surest remedy against the devil and besetting sins. That sin will never stand firm which is heartily prayed against.”—Unknown, Signs of the Times, March 20, 1923.

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One day a young man came to William E. Gladstone, a great English statesman and an outstanding Christian. “Mr. Gladstone, I would appreciate your giving me a few minutes in which I could lay before you the plans for my future. I should like to study law.”

“Yes,” said the great statesman, “and what then?”

“Yes, young man, and what then?”

“Then, sir, I hope to have a place in Parliament, in the House of Lords.”

“Yes, young man, what then?” asked Gladstone.

“Then I hope to do great things for Britain.”

“Yes, young man, and what then?”

“Then, sir, I hope to retire and take life easy.”
“Yes, young man, and what then?” he tenaciously asked.
“Well, then, Mr. Gladstone, I suppose I will die.”
“Yes, young man, and what then?”
The young man hesitated and said, “I never thought any farther than that, sir.”
Gladstone, looking at the young man sternly and steadily, said, “Young man, you are a fool. Go home and think life through!”

Many of the people of the world are like this young man, making plans without taking God into consideration.—By Stanley Harris, *These Times*, June 1964.

Quote: “The Bible has been the Book that held together the fabric of Western civilization. It has been the handbook of life to countless millions of men and women. The civilization we possess could not have come into existence and could not have been sustained without it.”—By H. G. Wells, *These Times*, March 1959.

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Who can forget the story of the little Scottish girl who outwitted the authority of England. Parliament decreed that dissenters should not be permitted to attend their churches, but she refused to be intimidated by the fact. Therefore, when Sunday came, she walked down the same loved path toward the old kirk. At the bend of the road the English soldiers stopped her and asked where she was going.

Here is her reply: “I’m on my way to my father’s house. My elder brother has died, and I want to find out what he has left me in his last will and testament.”

In their ignorance they let her go. She went to her Father’s house, the kirk; she did take notice of the fact that Jesus Christ, her Elder Brother, had died for her; and she did hear that day what He had left her in His last Will and Testament.—By Walter R. Courtenay, *These Times*, June 1952.

Quote: “I never look upon the money I earn as my own. It is only a fund entrusted to my care for proper disbursement.”—By Fritz Kreisler, *These Times*, June 1953.


In 1868 Fanny Crosby visited a prison to address the convicts. While she was pleading that they accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, one of the convicts stood up and cried out, “Good Lord, don’t pass me by!” His prayer was answered. . . . The prisoner’s agonized plea made a deep impression on Fanny Crosby. When she returned home, she wrote the now-famous words: “Pass me not, O gentle Saviour,. . . Do not pass me by.”—By Michael Daves, *These Times*, January 1964.

Quote: “It is high time for the world to stop playing the game of ‘Hide and Go Seek’ with God. Very soon now the countdown will begin; Jesus will say, ‘I’m coming, whether you are ready or not,’ and then the game will be over.”—By Shirley Rayburn, *These Times*, September 1972.

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Three Gates

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale to you someone has told
About another, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.
These narrow gates: First, “Is it true?”
Then, “Is it needful?” In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest, “Is it kind?”
And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.—From the Arabian, These Times, June 1964.

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