SARAH D. LOWRIE'S SATURDAY EVENING TALK

The Possibility of Breaking Away From the Hold of Evil Upon Our Souls

SOME one asked me once if I thought that there was room in the Kingdom of Heaven for people of degraded minds and habits.

Thank God, my opinion would not either shut or open the gate of the Kingdom of Heaven, so that it would be useless for me to speculate on such a generalization. But I do not need the testimony of the Salvation Army to assure me that such people, men and women, who have sinned against themselves and society from sheer weakness of a diseased body and a betrayed mind—have turned from their dissolute self-abasement, gathered their broken faculties into a consciousness under and slowly and with infinite efforts, operate their downward course and climbed heavenward to God, a perfect humanity.

HOW have they done it? By the power of God working on their inner cores.

Who have they done it? By the power of God working on their inner cores.

What experience convertes, that? There was no general experience. Each was alone.

Was there, perhaps, in each case, a conversion, a more intense desire for a new life, than in any another to the generality of cases? I am not sure.

Many men and women have gone down to be beyond recovery, or even beyond a conversion of the type, etc. Intense intense suffering is the Supreme Power that degrade the Will and weaken the faculties, or further paralyze the will, leaving the victim in a state of helplessness, or distorting the will into a perverted power, or, as angels of darkness, to distort and pervert the moral parts of the body. I do not know how much there is in that, but I believe that there is a power outside of ourselves, a power that can help us to escape from the bondage of our own evil, or, if we have not fallen into the worst, from the bondage of our own weakness, or, if we have fallen, from the bondage of our own evil habits.

We have got to realize that we are nothing and powerless. For something immeasurably more than ourselves. And we have got to realize that we need something infinitely better than ourselves, something stronger than the evil, to weaken our whole moral and physical being, spread a force so strong that it can drive the evil out of us.

We have "conversions" and "climbing" measures. We fight or we gather with other people. It is a great help. But there is no substitute for the power of God, for God's power in regeneration, which is of necessity a real and lord's worth fighting for, except that no part is left to the enemy, not even the sins. There is a power that's a deliverance, because it is God's power, not our own, that is at work. Nothing else is adequate to the case of the other inherent power.

I SAW a man recently in one of the movies. And I have told it to a friend as I imagine. He has gone far, poor fellow himself, and he is now marrying a girl, I suppose innocently, but not knowing his brutal nature. He sought ease in a cocktail stimulant. I thought there is the dress of the almost deadened nerves, the back of the playhouse. He could have seemed more determined to some right source of pressure and turn Lovering soon.

I think I should have felt more sure that he is coming out from a world that is taken possession of him, if he had shown some of the old fire of his nature, if he had shown some trouble because he was in the grip of a power that was too strong for him. But he was a man who had lost his power of resistance, who had let the world, the flesh and the devil have their way with him, who had let the world, the flesh and the devil have their way with him, who had let the world, the flesh and the devil have their way with him