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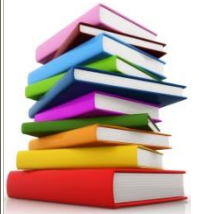
Biographical Reflections Christian Similitudes Christian Digest



April 2024

A Free Monthly Newsletter for Christian Students

Today's Readers



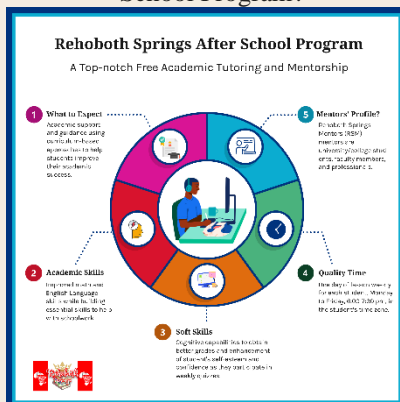
Announcements >>>

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Smith Wigglesworth <<< Biographical Reflections

"The reason the world is not seeing Jesus is that Christian people are not filled with Jesus. They are satisfied with attending meetings weekly, reading the Bible occasionally, and praying sometimes. It is an awful thing for me to see people who profess to be Christians lifeless, powerless, and in a place where their lives are so parallel to unbelievers lives that it is difficult to tell which place they are in, whether in the flesh or in the Spirit."—**Smith W.**

Smith was a British evangelist who was influential in the early history of Pentecostalism. As a child born into an impoverished family, he had no formal education. He worked on the farms and factories to meet family needs. Yet, his life, influence, and legacies surpassed that of several educational institutions in our world today.

At the age of eight, he was born again. He followed his parents to Methodist and Anglican churches. He learned more of the scripture during his plumbing apprenticeship with a devout man of the Plymouth Brethren. However, history had it on record that Smith only learned to read after marriage, and it was his wife, Polly, who taught him to read.

She taught him to read the Bible. Smith often stated that it was the only book he ever read, and did not permit newspapers in his home, preferring the Bible to be their only reading material. He loved God with everything he had and was steadfastly committed to God, His Word, and didn't rest until he saw God move in the lives of those who needed Him.

Someone described him as a well-dressed gentleman whose speech was often ungrammatical or confusing. That description was a contrasting rebuke to today's eloquent preachers whose dresses contradict their professions and faith.

"Some people read their Bibles in Hebrew, some in Greek; I like to read mine in the Holy Ghost."

-- **Smith**

Here was a man who did not go to school but was compassionate and decent. He was blunt but gentle. He had no oratorical prowess, but nations gathered to listen to him. So what was the secret to his success in God's service? He had God's power in Him, and that alone made the difference.

He refused to be weighed down by so many challenges Satan hurled at him.

And God performed several miracles through him, including raising the dead back to life. He was a successful preacher and faith long after he has gone. He trained his children in the way of the Lord and his grandson, Leslie Wigglesworth, became the president of the Elim Pentecostal Church after more than 20 years as a missionary in Congo. May our lives also count unto eternity.

Salt of the Earth

Believers must live as the salt of the earth.

In Bible times, salt connoted many things to the Jews, and among other uses, they used salt to preserve and season their foods.

So it was in that sense that Jesus told His disciples to be the salt of the earth.

As much as we cannot deny the physical aspects of the earth, we must also acknowledge our world's spiritual and moral parts.

Right from creation, God gave a moral duty to man to care for the physical earth. Moreover, God being a moral and spiritual personality, also wants man to preserve the morality of the universe in alignment with our spiritual professions.

Hence, believers have a moral obligation to be the "salt" of the earth, preserving it from moral decadence and corruption.

Borrowing from Christ's wisdom, here are some critical lessons from the words of Christ in Matthew 5:13.

First, salt adds value and taste to food. Therefore, Christians must add value to their world. What value are you adding to the people around you?

Secondly, If a seasoning has no flavor, it is unnecessary to add it to food. That implies that if Christians are not making frantic efforts to affect the world around them positively and make things better, they are of no value to God. If our lives are not different from the world, we are worthless.

Thirdly, we all agree that salt makes food tastier because when salt is added to any food, the food adopts the taste of salt.

In the same way, people in the world should be emulating the Christian lifestyle and moral uprightness. And when salt is absent in food, it is tasteless and not enjoyable.



Therefore, the presence of Christians in the world should make our world better. But unfortunately, that has not been the case in many places.

Salt is a seasoning and preservative agent. So also, believers must live as salt of the earth. If believers fail in this regard, Christianity will become worthless, and that will not be good for our world.

SHOULD GOD BECOME A MAN...

A necessary reflection for both Christians and non-Christians open to conversations about their faith.

The omnipotence attribute of God depicts the fact that He can do all things. Hence, it should not be impossible for Him to become a man.

If He chooses to become a man, He must be able to retain His capacities as God. If He is unable to do this, then, His Omnipotence becomes questionable.

Over the years, the divinity of Christ has been discussed and debated. So, rather than follow the paths of such debates on the personality of Christ as God, a more logical question would be considered thus: "If God should become a man, what are the things we should look for in Him?" Would He still be able to function as God even in human form?

The Bible presents Jesus as God-man (John 1:1-14).

If the Bible account is to be taken as true, all the attributes of God should abound in Jesus. Let us take a closer look at some of these critical considerations.

First, if God should become a man, it will not be irrational if He should have an unusual entry into the world. One such uncommon entry would be a conception without a biological father. Throughout human history, there has not been any man apart from Jesus Christ who came into the world in this manner. He was conceived without the fertilization of the male and female gametes. All reliable historical facts agree that Jesus Christ was born without a biological father.

Secondly, as God, He should be sinless. Throughout all history, Jesus was the only human said to be free from sin (John 8:46).

Thirdly, He should be able to satisfy the spiritual needs of human beings. Arguably, the greatest spiritual need of man is freedom from sin as all human beings have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Interestingly, the name of Jesus is the only

name throughout the whole world through which spiritual needs of men, including freedom from sin, are being met irrespective of race (Acts 4:12). Fourthly, since only God can forgive sin, He should be able to demonstrate this power while in human form. Fifthly, such a man that claims to be God should be able to do what no human being could do such as raising the dead, walking on water, or opening the eyes of a person that was born blind.

Sixthly, if God become a man, He must not deny it. Here was Jesus' answer when someone asked Him to reveal the Father to them: Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Lastly, should God truly become human, He would have a universal and lasting influence. C.S. Lewis puts it this way, "Christians believe He is God, the Lord of all, as Paul said: 'For in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily His words, He told us, will never fade away (Matthew 24:35) and they haven't'".



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