FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS



2. For know, my soul, the Lord will not hold thy least service in contempt, for little acts are most from spot of vanity and pride exempt. Begin then first with little things, the smallest sin avoid and hate; obedience to love adds wings, and little faith will grow to great.

3. If thou avoidest but the great and grosser sins, from fear of shame, and dost the small ones tolerate, thy love is but an empty name; that is not loving Christ alone. that is but loving him in part, not doing his will, but thine own, not serving him with all thy heart.

4. For he who is indeed the Lord's, follows him always, and will shun in all his actions, thoughts, and words, all sin, or an approach to one; seeks to promote his Saviour's praise in everything he doth and saith, and walks in his most holy ways, partaker of his life and death.

5. In every work, and at all hours, his chief aim is to serve his Lord with all his heart, and mind, and powers, in strict obedience to his word; for him he shrinks not night and day from hardship, trouble, loss, and woe; it is enough for him to say: "My Lord commands and wills it so."

6. Wrestle, my soul, and strive, and pray, thyself to this true love to raise, that thus thou mayst from day to day bring forth new fruit to his great praise. Study to please him, and be true, my soul, in great and small things both, for earnest diligence may do what is impossible to sloth.

7. Say not, I will in some great trial my constancy and truth maintain; O think of Peter's sad denial, and confidence, which proved so vain. Then learn to practise truth in small as well as in great things; lest thou, like Peter, should bewail thy fall, thy faithlessness and broken vow.

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