

NEW TESTAMENT
READINGS &
DEVOTIONALS

New Testament Readings & Devotionals

VOLUME 2

C.M.H. Koenig

Robert Hawker

Charles H. Spurgeon

Octavius Winslow

C.M.H. Koenig Books

C.M.H. Koenig Books

Copyright © 2021 by Heather L. Rautio

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

ISBN 978-1-956475-27-2 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-1-956475-28-9 (eBook)

ISBN 978-1-956475-29-6 (Hardcover)

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible®, and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers, all rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked AKJV are from the Authorized (King James) Version. Rights in the Authorized Version in the United Kingdom are vested in the Crown. Reproduced by permission of the Crown's patentee, Cambridge University Press.

Cover design by H. L. Rautio.

Cover photograph by D. Shahvaran.

First Printing, 2021

Visit www.cmhkoenigbooks.net

1

Reading: Acts 1

“And ye shall be witnesses unto me.” Acts 1:8

In order to learn how to discharge your duty as a witness for Christ, look at his example. He is always witnessing: by the well of Samaria, or in the Temple of Jerusalem: by the lake of Gennesaret, or on the mountain's brow. He is witnessing night and day; his mighty prayers are as vocal to God as his daily services. He witnesses under all circumstances; Scribes and Pharisees cannot shut his mouth; even before Pilate he witnesses a good confession. He witnesses so clearly, and distinctly that there is no mistake in him. Christian, make your life a clear testimony. Be you as the brook wherein you may see every stone at the bottom – not as the muddy creek, of which you only see the surface – but clear and transparent, so that your heart's love to God and man may be visible to all. You need not say, “I am true:” be true. Boast not of integrity, but be upright. So shall your testimony be such that men cannot help seeing it. Never, for fear of feeble man, restrain your witness. Your lips have been warmed with a coal from off the altar; let them speak as like heaven-touched lips should do. “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand.”¹ Watch not the clouds, consult not the wind – in season and out of season witness for the Savior, and if it shall come to pass that for Christ's sake and

the gospel's you shall endure suffering in any shape, shrink not, but rejoice in the honor thus conferred upon you, that you are counted worthy to suffer with your Lord; and joy also in this – that your sufferings, your losses, and persecutions shall make you a platform, from which the more vigorously and with greater power you shall witness for Christ Jesus. Study your great Exemplar and be filled with his Spirit. Remember that you need much teaching, much upholding, much grace, and much humility, if your witnessing is to be to your Master's glory. (Spurgeon, Evening Nov 7)

Footnote:

1. Ecclesiastes 11:6.

2

Reading: Acts 2

“*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.*” Acts 2:4

Rich were the blessings of this day if all of us were filled with the Holy Spirit. The consequences of this sacred filling of the soul it would be impossible to overestimate. Life, comfort, light, purity, power, peace; and many other precious blessings are inseparable from the Spirit’s benign presence. As *sacred oil*, he anoints the head of the believer, sets him apart to the priesthood of saints,¹ and gives him grace to execute his office aright. As the only truly purifying *water* he cleanses us from the power of sin and sanctifies us unto holiness, working in us to will and to do of the Lord’s good pleasure. As the *light*, he manifested to us at first our lost estate, and now he reveals the Lord Jesus to us and in us, and guides us in the way of righteousness. Enlightened by his pure celestial ray, we are no more darkness but light in the Lord. As *fire*, he both purges us from dross, and sets our consecrated nature on a blaze. He is the sacrificial flame by which we are enabled to offer our whole souls as a living sacrifice unto God. As heavenly *dew*, he removes our barrenness and fertilizes our lives. O that he would drop from above upon us at this early hour! Such morning dew would be a sweet commencement for the day. As the *dove*, with wings of peaceful love

he broods over his Church and over the souls of believers, and as a Comforter he dispels the cares and doubts which mar the peace of his beloved. He descends upon the chosen as upon the Lord in Jordan, and bears witness to their sonship by working in them a filial spirit by which they cry Abba, Father. As the *wind*, he brings the breath of life to men; blowing where he listeth he performs the quickening operations by which the spiritual creation is animated and sustained. Would to God, that we might feel his presence this day and every day. (Spurgeon, Morning Jun 19)

Footnote:

1. 1 Peter 2:9.

3

Reading: Acts 3

“The God of our fathers hath glorified his Son Jesus.” Acts 3:13
(AKJV)

See, my soul, how every part and portion of scripture is directed to this one subject – to glorify the Lord Jesus! What is the very design of redemption, but to glorify the Lord Jesus? What hath God constituted a church for, but to glorify the Lord Jesus? To what do all the precepts, promises, ordinances, sacrifices under the law, and institutions under the gospel, minister, but to this one end – to glorify the Lord Jesus? Talk they of promises? Why, all the promises of God are, in Christ Jesus, yea and amen, to the glory of God the Father by us.¹ Talk they of the law? Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.² Talk they of commandments? This is the commandment – that ye believe on the name of the only begotten Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name.³ And how hath the God of our fathers glorified his Son Jesus, in giving him as a Covenant to the people? Hath he not constituted him the glorious Head, the Mediator, the Husband, the Lord, the Prophet, the Priest, the King of his people? How hath he glorified him in his person, offices, characters, relations? How hath he carried him through all the parts of redemption, in his incarnation, ministry, miracles, obedience, life, death, resurrection,

ascension; and in all his triumphs over sin and Satan, death, hell, and the grave? And having constituted him the universal and eternal Lord of all, commands that every knee should bow before him, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!⁴ And is there anything left, by which the God of our fathers might manifest that he hath glorified his Son Jesus? Yes! there is one thing more, my soul, by which the wonderful grace is shown; and that is, when the God of our fathers hath glorified his Son Jesus in the heart of every poor sinner, who gives the glory of his salvation fully, heartily, completely, to him, and puts the crown of redemption upon the head of Jesus. My soul! hast thou done this? Hast thou glorified Jesus in this way, the only way in which thou canst glorify him, and the Father in him? Then, if so, what a sweet thought is it, that the God of our fathers, and thou, a poor sinner, are both agreed in this one blessed work, to glorify Jesus. And here both meet, in the only possible meeting-place for a holy God and unholy men to meet; and both are engaged in one and the same deed – to glorify Jesus! Oh! thou Lamb of God! be thou eternally glorified in my salvation! (Hawker, *The Poor Man's Morning Portion*, Aug 26)

Footnotes:

1. 2 Corinthians 1:20.
2. Romans 10:4.
3. 1 John 3:22-24.
4. Romans 14:11.

4

Reading: Acts 4

“And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13 (AKJV)

A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. You have read lives of Christ, beautifully and eloquently written, but the best life of Christ is his living biography, written out in the words and actions of his people. If we were what we profess to be, and what we should be, we should be pictures of Christ; yea, such striking likenesses of him, that the world would not have to hold us up by the hour together, and say, “Well, it seems somewhat of a likeness;” but they would, when they once beheld us, exclaim, “He has been with Jesus; he has been taught of him; he is like him; he has caught the very idea of the holy Man of Nazareth, and he works it out in his life and every-day actions.” A Christian should be like Christ in his *boldness*. Never blush to own your religion; your profession will never disgrace you: take care you never disgrace *that*. Be like Jesus, very valiant for your God. Imitate him in your *loving* spirit; think kindly, speak kindly, and do kindly, that men may say of you, “He has been with Jesus.” Imitate Jesus in his *holiness*. Was he zealous for his Master? So be you; ever go about doing good. Let not time be wasted: it is too precious. Was he self-denying, never

looking to his own interest? Be the same. Was he devout? Be you fervent in your prayers. Had he deference to his Father's will? So submit yourselves to him. Was he patient? So learn to endure. And best of all, as the highest portraiture of Jesus, try to forgive your enemies, as he did; and let those sublime words of your Master, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do,"¹ always ring in your ears. Forgive, as you hope to be forgiven. Heap coals of fire on the head of your foe by your kindness to him. Good for evil, recollect, is godlike. Be godlike, then; and in all ways and by all means, so live that all may say of you, "He has been with Jesus." (Spurgeon, Morning Feb 11)

Footnote:

1. Luke 23:34.

5

Reading: Acts 5

“Him hath God exalted.” Acts 5:31 (AKJV)

Jesus, our Lord, once crucified, dead and buried, now sits upon the throne of glory. The highest place that heaven affords is his by undisputed right. It is sweet to remember that the exaltation of Christ in heaven is a *representative exaltation*. He is exalted at the Father’s right hand, and though as Jehovah he had eminent glories, in which finite creatures cannot share, yet as the Mediator, the honors which Jesus wears in heaven are the heritage of all the saints. It is delightful to reflect how close is Christ’s union with his people. We are actually one with him; we are members of his body; and his exaltation is our exaltation. He will give us to sit upon his throne, even as he has overcome, and is set down with his Father on his throne; he has a crown, and he gives us crowns too; he has a throne, but he is not content with having a throne to himself, on his right hand there must be his queen, arrayed in “gold of Ophir.” He cannot be glorified without his bride. Look up, believer, to Jesus now; let the eye of your faith behold him with many crowns upon his head; and remember that you will one day be like him, when you shall see him as he is; you shall not be so great as he is, you shall not be so divine, but still you shall, in a measure, share the same honors, and enjoy the same happiness and the same dignity which

he possesses. Be content to live unknown for a little while, and to walk your weary way through the fields of poverty, or up the hills of affliction; for by-and-by you shall reign with Christ, for he has “made us kings and priests unto God, and we shall reign for ever and ever.”¹ Oh!, wonderful thought for the children of God! We have Christ for our glorious representative in heaven’s courts now, and soon he will come and receive us to himself, to be with him there, to behold his glory, and to share his joy. (Spurgeon, Morning Apr 22)

Footnote:

1. Revelation 5:10.