

If we trust in God, we look to Him alone, we deal with Him alone, and we are satisfied with His knowing about our need. Two things I add, as I write my experience and the Lord's dealings with me for the profit of the saints.

1. *During the last year I resolved, that, by God's help, I would seek to be more than ever a channel for the communication of God's bounties, and to communicate to those in need, or to give to the work of God. I acted according to the light which God gave me, and He condescended to make me His steward in one way or another far more abundantly than ever before. Would we wish to have means intrusted to us by the Lord, or to succeed in our trade, business, profession, etc., we must be truly desirous of being His stewards, and only His stewards. Read what I have written at length on this subject within the last twenty pages of the third part of this my Narrative; and, if you have read it before, read it yet again.*

2. *In looking over my journal, I find that during this year also I was more than once without a shilling, yea without a penny, though my income was about £500.*

April 29, 1846. To-day my beloved wife and myself had the inexpressibly great joy of receiving a letter from our beloved daughter, while we were staying in the Lord's service at Chippenham, in which she writes that she has now found peace in the Lord Jesus. Thus our prayers are turned into praises.

About 18 months before this I began especially to pray for the conversion of my dear child, and the Lord soon after seems to have begun to work in her heart. I knew little of her state of mind before receiving her letter, for I did not wish to force anything upon her of a spiritual character, but leave her to be attracted by the loveliness of the things of God. After hearing from her in April, 1846, she was not received at once to communion, but, being so young, I judged it desirable to watch the work in her soul. Towards the end of the year, however, my fellow-labourers being fully satisfied, she was baptized and received into communion, when she was 14 years and 3 months old.

Müller, George. A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller. Vol. 2. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1886. Print.

In 1843, Müller and his wife decided to send their daughter to a school instead of being instructed at home. In typical fashion, Müller considered the reasons for such a decision:

1, My dear wife, though well qualified, to instruct our daughter, so far as knowledge goes, was unable, on account of being engaged as my wife in a variety of things connected with the Lord's service, to give herself uninterruptedly to this work; and to do it partially we judged to be injurious to our daughter.

2, I had seen instances in which a home education, for an only child, had turned out very badly.

3, I judged that the mixing with other children would be beneficial to our daughter, provided that intercourse was under proper oversight; as thus a child is in early life introduced into a little world, and things do not all at once come upon a young person, when at last obliged to leave the parental roof.

4, But that which most of all led me to this decision was, that, as in the Church of Christ the Lord has qualified the members of the body for the performance of certain work, and all have not the same gift and service, so, in the same way, certain believers are called and qualified above others, for instructing children, and give themselves to this particular service, and that, therefore, I ought to make use of the qualifications of such, and of their having given their whole time to this particular service.

Müller, George. A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller. Vol. 2. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1886. Print.

Consider some of the significant decisions that have been made within your family. How did you go about making such decisions? Did you take the time to consider if there was sufficient reason to take the course you took?

In those situations where you sought to earnestly discern the Lord's will and do that which was most pleasing to Him, what was the outcome?

In situations where you did not seek the Lord's direction but rather trusted in your own wisdom, what were the outcomes?

Provisionally, while in Germany, Müller was given the opportunity of addressing a meeting of the state church. What would have Müller's opinion of the state church in Germany have been?

How did he respond to this invitation? Why?

The Lord provided in a multitude of ways in various situations from financial to physical to spiritual in the life of George Müller. How did some of the unbelieving onlookers account for his success?

How did Müller respond to the suggestion that he had a "secret treasure" from which he received his aid?

What was the only thing ever solicited for in the Annual Reports?

Pierson notes in this chapter that, “*We are all practically too careless of the training of children.*” Do you think he is correct? Why or why not?

If we are taking the training of children too carelessly, what are some practical steps we can take to remedy the situation?

Pierson also states that we are, “too distrustful of young converts.” Do you think he is correct at this point? Why or why not?

In 1853, Müller and his wife endured the trial of almost losing their daughter Lydia to illness. When you have had a loved one near death, how have you responded? How were you affected spiritually?

Commenting on his faith during this trial, Müller writes:

Now was the trial of faith. But faith triumphed. My beloved wife and I were enabled to give her up into the hands of the Lord. He sustained us both exceedingly. But I will only speak about myself. Though my only and beloved child was brought near the grave, yet was my soul in perfect peace, satisfied with the will of my Heavenly Father, being assured that He would only do that for her and her parents, which in the end would be the best.

Müller, George. A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller. Vol. 2. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1886. Print.

Have you experienced such peace amidst the prospect of losing a loved one? If so, how did you arrive at that peace? If not, what might have been the hindrance?

Though his daughter recovered and lived a long and faithful life of service to her King, not everyone for whom Müller prayed recovered from their illnesses. On January 22nd, 1866, Mr. Müller co-laborer in Bristol and close friend, Henry Craik, finished his course. The Lord sustained him through this trial as well. Consider the words spoken by Müller at the first meeting he attended after Mr. Craik's death:

When I Die, shall I be Missed?

(An Address at Salem Chapel, Bristol, on Monday evening, February 19, 1866. The first Prayer-meeting Mr. Müller attended after the death of his fellow-labourer, Mr. Henry Craik.)

WE miss our beloved brother Craik, and it is right that we should miss him. The godly aim of our lives should be that when we die we may be missed. My soul longs for grace so to live, so to walk, so to act, that when my course is finished, I may be missed,—I may be greatly missed. It becomes every one in the body of Christ,—every member in the body of Christ, to aim after this; that when their course is finished they may be missed,—they may be missed. If our beloved departed brother were not missed, we should have great cause for weeping, great cause for sorrow; but because he is missed, we have great cause for giving thanks, great cause for praising God for the grace that was given to him so to live, so to walk, so to preach, and so to act, as that now he is gone he is missed. Well, then, let us ask ourselves individually,—Suppose this were my last night on earth, suppose I should not have to stay another day here, would my brethren and sisters in Christ miss me? How deeply important it is that we should so walk, so act, and so pass through this world, that when we are gone we may be missed. If when gone, we are not missed by

the saints, it is a plain proof that we have not been strengthening their hands in God, it is a plain proof that we have not been ministering to their spiritual profit, that we have not been helping them forward in the things of God. If we take our place,—though we may not be preachers, though we may not be pastors, though we may not be holding any public position among the saints,—yet if we take our place as members in the body of Christ, and act according to the place the Lord has given us, and walk graciously according to that place, when we are gone we shall be missed,—we must be missed. After this we all have to aim. Let each one take away with us to-night this godly purpose,—that by the grace of God, from this evening and henceforth, it shall be my earnest prayer, my constant aim, so to live, so to walk, so to carry myself, that when I am gone I shall be missed.

Müller, George. Jehovah Magnified: Addresses. Bristol, England: The Bible and Tract Depot of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, 1876. Print.

When you have lost loved ones in the past, has it served to strengthen your faith and dedication to the Lord? If so, how? If not, why not?

NEXT LESSON:

THE SHADOW OF A GREAT SORROW

Feb. 6, 1870. On Oct. 7, 1830, therefore 39 years and 4 months since, the Lord gave me my most valuable, lovely and holy wife. Her value to me, and the blessing God made her to be to me, is beyond description. This blessing was continued to me till this day, when this afternoon, about four o'clock, the Lord took her to Himself.

Feb. 11, 1870. To-day the earthly remains of my precious Mary were laid in the graver. Many thousands of persons showed the deepest sympathy. About 1200 of the Orphans, who were able to walk, followed in the procession; the whole staff of helpers at the Orphan Houses, who could be spared, and hundreds of believers of the Church, with which she had been in communion; I myself, sustained by the Lord to the utmost, performed the service at the chapel in the cemetery, etc.

Müller, George. A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller. Vol. 3. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1874. Print.