

IN LETTERS FROM AN UNCLE

When I was 22 years old and in a time of crisis and uncertainty, my uncle George decided to write to me several letters in which he offered me some encouraging advice. His words have been a constant reference point in my life since then, and I am sure that others will benefit by the extracts which I have put together here:

My dear Graeme,

Somewhere is waiting a blessed work
That your hand alone can do,
Work that the Master in wisdom planned
And left in the world for you.
Search for it, find it, God's holy work
It never is far away,
Find it by doing with heart and with soul
The Duty that calls today.

A word to the wise is sufficient.

Open your mind to what God wants you to do. It may be far removed from any tentative ideas you may have, but if you are ready and willing to do His will you will find Joy and Peace and Power beyond your reckoning.

The benediction says, "The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you." It is wisely formed because we can appropriate the gifts only in that order. The Grace that the Saviour would impart is firstly obedience to the Father's will from which springs the Love to our neighbour which is God in action, and from which grows the convincing power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." Again the yoke is obedience and then the privilege of sharing with Him the mediation of God's perfect Love to all mankind which He is waiting to pour out through His servants. May we be willing to be led in His righteousness.

"Our God is a consuming fire."

"It is God that worketh in you both to do and to will of His good pleasure."

"After this manner pray, 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name'"

This often trips off our tongue unthinkingly. What is this name?

"I am the Lord, which exercises Loving-kindness and Justice and Righteousness in the Earth."

That is the Name to be hallowed all day long. Concentrating on that will put iron in your soul and purpose in your living. To help you along the way, there is abundantly available the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. May you find the full thrill of applying it.

The salient message which God would impart is the energizing reminder: "Life is short. O make haste to love; be swift to be kind!"

You will see as you grow older, that any regrets you may have will be, not so much for sins committed but forsaken, but rather for opportunities of doing good neglected. Fortunately for our peace of mind, the Grace of Our Redeemer is sufficient for these failings also.

Now our Heavenly Father is eager and willing to shower blessings upon us and we must beware that our original sin of pride does not get in the way of our receiving these blessings like little children.

I would suggest for your consideration that God has shown you that you have certain aptitudes. These are gifts from God which you cannot throw in His face, and it is just as necessary to show forth Christ in the workaday world as it is in the evangelistic meeting. Wherever you are, if you are genuine and let your light shine before men, they will be attracted and will want what you have got. Jesus's life on earth was eminently practical. If your religion is practical, it will attract practical people who will be an asset in helping to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ is for all occasions. We thank Him for His Grace in Salvation and Redemption and, when it comes home to us, in Sanctification which is not something to be struggled after but is an accomplished fact, by the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant. We are required to accept that with our Salvation and to live it out. Equally there is His Grace in the fruits of the Spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Temperance, Longsuffering, Kindness, Meekness etc. Without His presence we cannot exhibit these. Let us remember that He waiteth to be gracious still, unto others through us.

“THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH” and as the modern version puts it, “He has the whole world in His hands.”

At any juncture in life, there is but one open road and if we sit down and look for it, God shows us the way and all burdens are shed.

The cure for depression is to give yourself away. GIVE! As I have quoted to you before, “Life is short; O make haste to love, be swift to be kind.” “Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

It is necessary again to get back to first principles. “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Man's business is with God, and God's business with men is the justice which is humanity. Start off from there and you will find reality, which includes a sense of humour, which is part of the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Take God seriously and yourself with a pinch of salt, but be ever mindful of your high calling in Christ Jesus, which is the mark towards which your energies must be bent. And remember that everyone else, whether they recognise it or not, has that same high calling. It is your job to open their eyes to their value in God's sight.

In plain terms, life requires of your co-operation that you be a good fellow-worker, lending your gift where it is needed, a friend to all men and a true partner in love and marriage. God knows you need a help-meet and has surely provided one. The Lord will direct you here also, if you ask Him, Sit down and look for the open road. It is always ready for you and the Lord will go before you. Remember all day long, “He waiteth to be gracious still unto others through you.”

“All things are given you bountifully to enjoy”, that is, to enjoy by free sharing.

He waiteth to be gracious still
To neighbours all through you,
Be eager, then, to seek his will,
His gracious work to do.

Each has a gift, through Jesus given,

His Kingdom to complete,
So consecrate your powers for Heaven,
His yoke is kind and sweet.

Then when your race on earth is run,
He'll bring you home in love,
And greet you with his blest, "Well done",
To reign with him above.

God is not in the earthquake, nor in the fire; not in our strivings, however praiseworthy, but in the STILL SMALL VOICE, which says, "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you." Let us consent to be chosen and to listen all day to the Still Small Voice within, which is the only reality. We become so clever in our own conceits that we refuse to heed the unfailing guide within. Let us be still and know! In simplest terms, Faith says, "Let God be God."

Trusting that you will accept in full the ever available gifts:
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The Love of God,
The fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
all to be used for those around you.

Affectionately,
Uncle George.