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# A Business Man's Experience

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## A Business Man's Experience

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I AM a business man at the head of a corporation. I lived, as men describe it, a moral life. I was a good neighbor, a loyal friend and social club fellow. At the close of the business day I went to my club or hotel, drank a few cock-tails or high-balls with my friends and went home to dinner. Just an average type of thousands of business men.

I was raised in a Christian home, went to Sunday-school and church, and at an early age professed "religion." As I grew older and got away from home influences I became careless, but now and then there would come a hunger in my heart for something I had once possessed, a real sense of loss in my life, and an unspoken desire to again experience the happiness and pleasure I once enjoyed. A yearning for something I did not have.

I tried to convince myself that a good moral life was all that was necessary; that, if a man lived up to the Golden Rule (but who does?), he was living a pretty good life. But all my reasoning and philosophizing could not still a something away down in my heart, which said: "It is not enough."

The scribes and Pharisees gave largely of their means to the poor, prayed fervently and were the highest type of moralists

probably the world ever knew, yet Christ denounced them as hypocrites, whited sepulchers, and a generation of vipers, and also said to his disciples: "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20.)

Thus for years I went on fighting inwardly against a definite surrender of my will and life to God, and condoning in myself and in others, things which in my heart I knew were wrong. My mind was filled with doubts as to the sonship of Christ, the atonement, etc. I endeavored to find peace of mind and conscience in my investigation of oriental religions, and the various so-called sciences (Christian and mental), but none of these things brought peace and I found no rest for my soul.

One day while lunching with the president of one of another corporation, he, much to my surprise, began to talk to me about the necessity of making a definite surrender of my life to Jesus Christ. One by one my objections and excuses fell before his unanswerable presentation of the claims which Jesus Christ had on my life, and, at last, I realized that, in all my wanderings, all my sinnings, all my forgetfulness of Jesus Christ, He had never left me and His Spirit had been striving with me through all the years.

I still tried to evade direct and immediate surrender.

My friend, however, kindly and firmly urged me to decide, and to give myself in full surrender to the Master, quoting: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28.) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

I then and there decided, just as I would decide any business proposition, to come to God and to make a confession of my sins to Him and, believe in his promise that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9.) I knelt before my Heavenly Father and realized that I had His promise to depend upon, and trusted Him for forgiveness of my past waywardness and sinning just as I would trust the promise to pay of the United States government, based on my faith in the integrity of the nation. I also claimed His promise that He would keep that which I had committed to Him. (2 Timothy 1:12.)

From that day, I have been a new creature in Christ Jesus, "Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17.) The things which once gave me passing pleasure in my life have now no attraction for me whatever. The associates which once seemed a part of my existence I have no longer any desire for.

Perhaps the most wonderful change man-

ifest to my consciousness when my mind began to resume its normal activity and inquire into what had happened, was that all my doubts, questionings, skepticism and criticism concerning God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, concerning the full inspiration, accuracy and authority of the Holy Scriptures as the incorruptible Word of God; the sufficiency of Christ's atonement to settle the question of sin, and to provide a ground upon which God could, in perfect righteousness, forgive and justify a sinner; and concerning an assured salvation and perfect acceptance in Christ, were swept away completely. From that day to this I have never been troubled about doubts of God and His Word.

My business friends have noticed the marked change in my life. My wife also realizes it. The petulance and fault-finding of old are gone. The desire for those things which fill up the sum total of the spare time of so many business men is gone. I have felt from the moment of my surrender to Jesus Christ, the abiding presence of His Holy Spirit in my life each day, a desire to do God's will and to inquire what His will is for me.

The thoughtless oath, the taking of God's name in vain (notwithstanding the habit of years), is gone, and I find my greatest pleasure in the society of people who love Jesus Christ and His service, where once I avoided them.

It has not impaired my business usefulness one particle. On the contrary, I have been more successful since I made this decision

than I have been for years. I am resting on the promise, "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5), which He has fulfilled in a marvelous way. Hence the stupendous change, whereby one "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) is "quickened together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5), is not accomplished through any process of reasoning, nor is it the outcome of any process of development. It is the immediate and mighty work of God—"the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:19, 20); and it is a work which is done instantly in them that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The atonement of Jesus Christ for sins has become a personal matter with me. He died for me, His blood was shed for me (Romans 3:24-25). This intercession is for me (Hebrews 7:25). Through Him I am a son of God (Romans 8:14-16), adopted into the family of God. By His divine commission I am an ambassador of Christ, a high position, indeed, ambassador of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

After making my decision for Jesus Christ, I went back to my office and calling my closest associate, I told him what I had done and what my intentions were for the future. He looked steadily into my eyes, grasped my hand and said: "I am so glad. I have been thinking seriously of making a start myself.

I do not know a better time. I will start with you." And he did. That same night I got a testament (I had not opened a Bible for years), and before retiring I read a few chapters and knelt down and talked with God as a son would to a father. I was surprised how easy it was to tell Him all about myself, all about my business affairs.

The peace and confidence that came to me then has never left me, and I have an abiding consciousness of His real presence in my life.

My business days are full of many cares, worries and disappointments, but there is an abiding peace within which "passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Every morning and evening I read my Bible and talk with my Father, not the way I used to say my prayers as a boy, but talk with Him, tell Him everything, ask for His advice and feel His presence so near and His guiding so unerring.

There have been some very crucial situations, difficult to handle, where I have not known what to do, which, when submitted to Him, have come out all right without any seeming special effort on my part. Business situations, which were almost impossible, were made possible, and I have had so many evidences of His direct individual leadings and guidings in my business, social and domestic life, that every day brings new and actual demonstrations of the fulfillment of his promises.

My hope in writing this experience is, that

it may fall into the hands of some business man, dissatisfied with his own life as I was; some man who has been struggling and trying to get away from that still small voice, with which each man on earth is familiar. And my prayer is that it may lead him to a solution of his problem as I have been led to a solution of mine.

A BUSINESS MAN.

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