

Sermon Outlines

The Godly Life

2 KINGS 18:5-7 - "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses. And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth."

The godly life is much the same essentially, at all times. These verses summarize Hezekiah's life before they enter upon the details of it. They sum up our life also. What are the secrets of all true life?

I. **Trusting** - "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel" (v.5)

1. The Old Testament has much on trust, and in the New Testament there is pre-eminently Hebrews 11.
2. Note various aspects:
 - (a) English: trusting to - on - in.
 - (b) Hebrew: credit - lean on, roll on, devolve, commit, stay, take refuge.
3. Here the significance of the word is to lean on God as a foundation - as a cripple leans hard on crutches, for use.
4. Compare Hezekiah and Sennacherib as illustration.
 - (a) Hezekiah taunted with his trust.
 - (b) Yet he spread the letter before the Lord.
5. God the foundation bedrock of all life.

II. **Cleaving** - "He clave to the Lord" (v.6)

1. The figure - adhesion.
2. The usages - bone and skin, girdle and loins, tongue and mouth, man and wife, Israel and God, Ruth and Naomi.
3. The meaning.
 - (a) Adherence of loyalty.
 - (b) Adhesion of love.
 - (c) Adhesiveness of fellowship.
4. The application.
 - (a) Twofold aspect - resistance, persistence, vigorous tenacity.
 - (b) Separation from and attachment to - nothing to separate from God - each day closer.

III. **Following** - "Departed not from following Him" (v.6)

1. Note paradox of contact and pursuit.
2. Compare Psalm 63: "My soul thirsteth" (v.1); "my soul shall be satisfied" (v.6); "my soul followeth hard" (v.8)
3. Always near and yet ever closer.

IV. **Obeying** - "Kept His commandments" (v.6)

1. The outcome of all is practical obedience.
2. Guard against two errors:
 - (a) Stopping short of obedience.
 - (b) Thinking of obedience only.

V. **Realizing** - "And the Lord was with him" (v.7)

Emphasize the "and" - cause and effect.

1. The Presence of God.
2. The Prosperity of the Godly.

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Conclusion:

1. Faith
2. Fellowship
3. Following
4. Faithfulness
5. Feeling

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*