

THE REWARD

Shakespeare says, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

Paul says, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Let us suppose that a well-known producer had chosen you to take the part of Napoleon, and you are preparing to do it.

The first thing you would do, would be to familiarize yourself with the part and characterization. To do this, you would go to a library and find out everything possible concerning him. You would find out where he lived, and when he lived, and how he lived, and why he lived; you would study his characteristics, qualities, habits and attributes; how he looked, what he did, how he walked, talked and acted, how he dressed, how he carried himself, and what were the customs of his day, and what were the costumes; in fact, you would endeavor to find out whatever could be ascertained about Napoleon.

Then, having rehearsed and rehearsed, and yet again rehearsed, on a certain day, you would repair to the theatre, and entering the dressing room assigned to you, you would make up for the part. To do this, you would eliminate from yourself everything that was unlike Napoleon; and, by means of pigments, delineate upon your countenance those lines which would make you appear like Napoleon; and upon completion of the final touches, you would take off the clothes which you had been wearing, and don the costume which Napoleon would have been wearing at that particular time.

After this, you enter upon the stage to play the part. The stage is all set and ready for you. Every stage "prop" is there which ought to be there, and none are found which should not be there. The producer may be safely trusted to see to those necessary things. You trust him fully to do this. You know perfectly well that the producer will not leave out something which should be there; he will not have a kitchen chair for a throne when you are to be crowned Emperor; neither will there be a pin on the seat to make you appear ridiculous when you sit down. If you are to enact a courtship scene with your Josephine, beneath an apple tree, surely there will be an apple tree and not a prickly pear; the beautiful Josephine will surely be present and not Desdemona or Medusa with the snaky locks; everything will be there just as and when required, for the producer understands his business and all may be safely left to him. *Your* business is to play the part. Nothing else. The stage is set for you.

Similarly, you are called upon to play the part of the Son of God. God has chosen you for the part, and He is the Great Producer. Really, it isn't a part at all, though it may so seem at first. You have been playing a part so long, the part of a human being subject to sin, disease, death and other troubles, as well as the better things of human existence; and this part has become so real to you that when you do resume your true being as the Son of God, being the Son of God seems to be more a part than that which you are forsaking.

To take the part of the Son of God, the procedure is much the same as in the illustration. The first thing to do, is to learn all you can of the Son of God, for something must first be learned of Him before you can begin even the least rehearsal. As Jesus said, "If ye then are not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?" In order to do this, you must seek the library, which consists of the Bible and such commentaries as will afford a key to the Scriptures, and therein find whatever you may find concerning the Son of God — who he is, whence he came, whither he goes, where he lives, when he lives, how he lives, why he lives, his characteristics, qualities and attributes, how he looks and what he does. In fact, everything you can possibly learn about the Son of God must be sought and found.

When the time comes for you to play the part of the Son of God, and that time is *now*, you retire into that closet of spiritual consciousness and proceed to delete from your countenance all traces of weariness, anger, hatred, lust, malice, worry, fear, brutality, and materiality of every sort and kind. In fact, you eliminate everything which is unlike God's Son. Just as you "made up" for Napoleon, by deleting everything unlike him, so now you put on the characteristics of the Son of God. You start by putting on the lesser things of which you have learned, and gradually you put on the greater things as they appear to you, even as a great actor depicts more and more clearly the character which he plays; and you delineate on your countenance those Christly lines and expressions which are so well recognized as of the Son of God, the Christ-man. Moreover, you take off the robes of matter and replace them with the white robes of Spirit, those "white and glistening" robes which we read of in the Bible, and you find yourself on the stage, ready to play the part — in fact, you are playing the part.

As you trusted the producer to set the stage perfectly, to pick the cast, and to have all the "props" where and when needed, so now you may be sure that the Great Producer, God, may be wholly trusted to provide the cast, have the stage perfectly set, and everything just where it belongs and at the proper time. As you were quite sure that the human producer would not have someone other than Josephine present to be crowned as Empress to Napoleon's Emperor, nor a pin on the seat to cause you to be undignified, so you may be quite sure that when you play the part of the Son of God in doing all manner of good, God will not leave you stranded somewhere, or permit you to be wretched, miserable, poor, afraid, sick, or otherwise inharmonious. Neither will He permit you to be associated with people in business or otherwise who should not be your associates. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews) As you play the part of the Son of God, you may be quite sure that the Great Producer will have those who should be associated with you, ready and at hand to act in conjunction with you. Instead of sickness, sin, death, poverty, or other troubles, you will find that, as you go through scene after scene in this continuous performance, which is Life itself, when you require the "prop" of health, that health will be there; when you require life, that life will be there; and when you require supply, that supply will be there, too. In fact, no matter what is required — life, health, happiness, peace, substance, love, abundance, or whatnot — all these things will be found ready and at hand.

Many years ago the writer started out to play a part in the world. He had everything necessary to make a success of his part and make it a happy one. He had a father, highly respected, with a pedigree unexcelled, who gave him a first-class education; who

put him into what was considered one of the finest positions leading up to an honorable career, if advantage were taken of the opportunities present; who gave him the entree everywhere that was worthwhile having an entree to; in fact, who started him off with advantages far beyond the ordinary. Instead of taking his part, however, the writer traveled along another road of his own choosing, and finally became ill, until some thirty-five years ago he was given up to die, and this verdict was pronounced by some of the best physicians in New York.

About this time, he heard of the wonderful might of the Lord to heal and save, and, though little impressed, sought out one who professed to heal through this power. This man told him to "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Paul to the Romans), and showed him how to take his part; and, as he did so, he became wholly healed and well. As he endeavored to take his part, he found that the Great Producer had everything on the stage set and ready; if he needed health; there was health, if he needed supply there was supply; no matter what it was that he required, there it was right at hand for him. And he has come to understand that when he needs eternal Life, he will find it right at hand, too, and ready for him.

Let everyone then commence to "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ," to take the part of the Son of God. In this great theatre of Good, the Kingdom of God, there is no limit to the cast, no end to the play, and nothing too difficult to be played; while the reward is beyond the faintest gleams of what may accrue from the stage of materialism. Here everyone is a star of no small magnitude, and each and every one has a most important part, nor can the play go on without him. The world's applause may be exceedingly small, but the spiritual reward is quite beyond computation. "As the reward for his faithfulness, he would disappear to material sense in that change which has since been called the ascension." (*Science and Health*) "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God." (Luke)