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The Holy Passion of Enthusiasm

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THE men and women who have been greatly used of God in the conflict with evil and in the extension of His Kingdom, have not always been the talented, the intellectual, the educated and the trained, the strong; but they have been souls aglow with Christian enthusiasm. Whatever else they may have had or not had, they did have this one thing. The Christian worker who lacks this enthusiasm will have a hard time of it. He must fail of attaining the best possible results of service.

Enthusiasm is not a rare thing among men. It is manifested wherever men toil and strive and contend, in all departments of human ambition and effort. But the enthusiasm that is Christian is not so common. If we inquire for a definition of Christian enthusiasm, it is easy to find it in a thousand exemplifications in heroic lives of men and women in the service of God and humanity. Christian enthusiasm is a high and holy passion. It is divine life in motion. It is pure love on fire. It is faith inspired. It is hope triumphant. It is faith, hope and love at concert pitch, in the swell of a mighty harmony. It is knowledge driven by zeal. It is a soul at full stretch under high and holy inspiration.

Christian enthusiasm kindles, warms and burns like flame. It flashes and strikes like lightning. It pours like great showers. It rushes like mighty rivers. It moves onward resistlessly. It pierces the darkness, bridges the rivers, climbs or tunnels the mountains, shatters the barricades of hell. It "presses toward the mark," and reaches it.