

The hill of progress is not to be climbed without effort. No one need expect to be carried along to the prize, either in **religious** or secular matters, independently of his own exertions. 5T180.

There were occasions when Jesus stood forth while in human flesh as the Son of God. Divinity flashed through humanity, and was seen by the scoffing priests and rulers. Was it acknowledged? Some acknowledged that He was the Christ, but the larger portion of those who upon these special occasions were forced to see that He was the Son of God, refused to receive Him. ***Their blindness corresponded to their determined resistance of conviction.*** {ST, May 10, 1899 par. 12}

In this our day men have placed themselves where they are ***wholly unable to fulfill the conditions of repentance and confession:*** therefore they cannot find mercy and pardon. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence. (MS 30, 1890)

Never is one received from the family of Satan into the family of God without exciting the ***determined resistance*** of the wicked one. {5T 4

In order that we may become instruments fit for a valuable service, we must be prepared for our labor. We are as rough stones from the quarry, and we must be chiseled and hewn, until God sees that the unsightly edges are all taken off, and we are fitted and polished for a place in the heavenly temple. Do not entertain the idea that because you have accepted the truth, you have attained perfection. The work of character-building is a life-long work. ***The Bible must be studied in order that you may properly estimate your progress, and understand your obligations.*** It is necessary for you to look constantly into the great moral mirror, to measure your attainments by the great standard of holiness. The principles of God's law must become the principles of your life and the motive power of all your actions. The impulses of your heart must be regulated by the gospel of the Son of God, and your character must be fashioned after the divine Pattern. The truth you profess must be established in reverent and holy purposes to honor God and benefit mankind. ***This is the only successful method of controlling the life.*** There should be ***steady, persevering, persistent advancement*** in the Christian pathway. A fitful experience is of little value. The impulsive effort to overcome is often as impulsively discontinued as begun. There should be a ***determined resistance*** of evil in the strength of Christ. Forgetting what is behind, we should press toward the mark with ***all diligence***. The truth must be stamped upon the soul, woven into the character, until the life is sanctified through the power of God. ***While God works in you, to will and to do of his own good pleasure, you are to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*** You have something more to do than simply to believe. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Use your talents for God in humble faith and love, and he who has been faithful over the "few things" of earth, will be made ruler over "many things" in the eternal world of glory. {RH, May 1, 1888 par. 11}

