

I the Lord, the First, and With the Last

by A.B. Simpson

The sermon emphasizes the importance of knowing Christ as a living Person rather than depending on experiences or a static condition of sanctification.

Scripture: Philippians 3:12

Topics: "Holiness", "Dependence on Christ"

Description

A.B. Simpson emphasizes the importance of relying on Christ as a living Person rather than merely on the experience of holiness. He warns that many believers become disillusioned when they face trials and temptations after initially feeling delivered from sin, leading them to doubt their experiences. This cycle of failure can cause them to abandon their pursuit of holiness, ultimately resulting in a worse state than before. Simpson calls for a deeper understanding of sanctification that centers on a relationship with Jesus, asking for His heart, faith, and life. The message encourages believers to seek Christ continually rather than relying solely on past experiences.

Transcript

Thousands of people get stranded after they have embarked on the great voyage of holiness because they have depended upon the experience rather than on the Author of it. They had supposed that they were thoroughly and permanently delivered from all sin, and in the ecstasy of their first experience they imagined that they never would be tried and tempted as before. When, therefore, they step out into the actual facts of Christian life and find themselves failing and falling, they are astonished and perplexed, and they conclude that they must have been mistaken in their experience.

Then they make a new attempt at the same thing, and again fall, until at last, worn out with the experiment, they conclude that the experience is a delusion, or at least that it was never intended for them.

Thus they fall back into the old way, and their last state is worse than the first. Men and women today need to know not sanctification as a state but Christ as a living Person. Lord Jesus, give me Thy heart, Thy faith, Thy life, Thyself.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ab-simpson/i-the-lord-the-first-and-with-the-last/>

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