

Turn Away Mine Eyes From Beholding Vanity

by C.H. Spurgeon

We need God's help and quickening to be zealous for Him, and we must cry out to Him in prayer to receive it.

Scripture: Psalm 119:37, Matthew 6:19

Topics: "Spiritual Awakening", "Vanity"

Description

C.H. Spurgeon emphasizes the various forms of vanity that distract us from a meaningful life, including worldly pleasures and the pursuit of wealth. He warns that even seemingly respectable pursuits can be vain if they do not center on Christ and God. Spurgeon highlights the need for divine intervention to awaken our spirits, as human efforts alone are insufficient to inspire true zeal and devotion. He encourages believers to earnestly pray for God to quicken their hearts and turn their eyes away from vanity, recognizing the urgency of living a life focused on eternal values. This prayer, 'Quicken Thou me in Thy way,' is presented as essential for every believer's daily walk.

Transcript

There are divers kinds of vanity. The cap and bells of the fool, the mirth of the world, the dance, the lyre, and the cup of the dissolute, all these men know to be vanities; they wear upon their forefront their proper name and title. Far more treacherous are those equally vain things, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches. A man may follow vanity as truly in the counting-house as in the theatre. If he be spending his life in amassing wealth, he passes his days in a vain show.

Unless we follow Christ, and make our God the great object of life, we only differ in appearance from the most frivolous. It is clear that there is much need of the first prayer of our text. "Quicken Thou me in Thy way." The Psalmist confesses that he is dull, heavy, lumpy, all but dead. Perhaps, dear reader, you feel the same. We are so sluggish that the best motives cannot quicken us, apart from the Lord Himself. What! will not hell quicken me? Shall I think of sinners perishing, and yet not be awakened?

Will not heaven quicken me? Can I think of the reward that awaiteth the righteous, and yet be cold? Will not death quicken me? Can I think of dying, and standing before my God, and yet be slothful in my Master's service? Will not Christ's love constrain me? Can I think of His dear wounds, can I sit at the foot of His cross, and not be stirred with fervency and zeal? It seems so! No mere consideration can quicken us to zeal, but God Himself must do it, hence the cry, "Quicken Thou me."

The Psalmist breathes out his whole soul in vehement pleadings: his body and his soul unite in prayer. "Turn away mine eyes," says the body: "Quicken Thou me," cries the soul. This is a fit prayer for every day. O Lord, hear it in my case this night.

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