

In Me

by Charles E. Cowman

The sermon teaches that true peace and blessedness come from within, regardless of external circumstances.

Scripture: Matthew 5:3, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:15

Topics: "Inner Peace", "Spiritual Joy"

Description

Charles E. Cowman preaches on finding true blessedness and peace in the midst of trials and suffering, drawing inspiration from the example of Paul and the story of Paganini. He emphasizes that true joy and music of life come from within the soul, not from external circumstances. The sermon encourages believers to demonstrate that peace resides in their hearts, allowing them to see beauty and joy even in the midst of life's storms and challenges.

Transcript

"In me . . . peace" (John 16:33).

There is a vast difference between happiness and blessedness. Paul had imprisonments and pains, sacrifice and suffering up to the very limit; but in the midst of it all, he was blessed. All the beatitudes came into his heart and life in the midst of those very conditions.

Paganini, the great violinist, came out before his audience one day and made the discovery just as they ended their applause that there was something wrong with his violin. He looked at it a second and then saw that it was not his famous and valuable one.

He felt paralyzed for a moment, then turned to his audience and told them there had been some mistake and he did not have his own violin. He stepped back behind the curtain thinking that it was still where he had left it, but discovered that some one had stolen his and left that old second-hand one in its place. He remained back of the curtain a moment, then came out before his audience and said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I will show you that the music is not in the instrument, but in the soul." And he played as he had never played before; and out of that second-hand instrument, the music poured forth until the audience was enraptured with enthusiasm and the applause almost lifted the ceiling of the building, because the man had revealed to them that music was not in the machine but in his own soul.

It is your mission, tested and tried one, to walk out on the stage of this world and reveal to all earth and Heaven that the music is not in conditions, not in the things, not in externals, but the music of life is in your

own soul.

If peace be in the heart,

The wildest winter storm is full of solemn beauty,

The midnight flash but shows the path of duty,

Each living creature tells some new and joyous story,

The very trees and stones all catch a ray of glory,

If peace be in the heart.

--Charles Francis Richardson

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