

The grandest thing in life is to be a Christian. To miss Christ is to miss the big things, the best things, and the most beautiful things in life. In Christ we find the joy which no man can take from us, the pleasures which endure for evermore and the unsearchable riches. Have you responded to the call of Christ? Have you come personally to Him to receive the good gifts of pardon, peace and power? He is calling. He is waiting. He is expecting you to come. Come! Come now! Come as you are.

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke

15 : 10)

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My Greatest Hour

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FROM twelve o'clock to one o'clock on 7th January, 1906, in Rockview Manse, Newry, was my greatest hour. On the Fiftieth Anniversary of that hour I would bear my witness to my Lord, who revealed Himself to me and drew me into His family and service.

Sometimes conversions are gradual, but frequently they seem to take place suddenly. I experienced a real and immediate change when the Lord laid His hand upon me. I did nothing but receive. He did everything. Christ, by His Spirit, led me to repentance and faith.

During the previous year I had been brought to think a little about life owing to the death of three of my companions at school, at church and at business. I had also been halted by injuries received when

cycling, bathing and playing football. I know now that I was being prepared for the great change. At that hour I received forgiveness and peace. Before the day was over I was anxious to witness to Christ who had rescued me. All things became new in that marvellous hour when I realized that Christ alone could meet the deep needs of my heart and life. When I thought of the fact that I had never returned to thank Christ for all that He had endured for me, then I saw my own heart and my base ingratitude.

I rejoice that I was taught and trained in a Christian home. I knew the truth in my head, but I had not made the great surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. I knew afterwards that my parents had been praying earnestly for me, and their hearts were gladdened at the answer. I thank God for all the love and patience and example of my father and mother. My brother Henry was brought into the Kingdom at the same time, and on the following Tuesday my brother James was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in Cullybackey, Co. Antrim.

After some months I felt that the Lord was calling me into the Ministry of the Word. This brought a time of testing,

prayer and struggle, but the guidance came. In my years at college I received many tokens of the love and care of my Saviour. That great hour has been with me through the days and years of my ministry, enriching every hour and heightening every true experience. I would go back to that hour and would seek to catch some of the holy joy which filled my heart when I first saw Christ as my own personal Redeemer and Friend. I have failed Him frequently, but He has never failed me. I would now bear my witness to the love of God in Christ, to the great blessing of the Christian home, to the power of Prayer, to the reality of Conversion, and to the joy of Christian service. I would pour out my heart in gratitude to God for all His great goodness to me.

In this article I would seek to bear my witness humbly, earnestly and gratefully, for the honour of my Saviour and for the encouragement of others. I know that many who read these words are rejoicing in Christ. Our experiences may differ, but we are all in the same great family and serving the same Lord. The ideal life is to trust Christ in the early days of youth and to give a whole life to the service of the Kingdom.