

CEASELESS SEARCH

by Dr. Babu Phillip, Professor

An old man was reclining on an easy-chair. His grandson brought the newspaper to him. Eager to read the news, he started to search for his spectacles. After a while the child asked what he was searching for. He replied that, he was looking for his spectacles. Laughing aloud, the child pointed to his face and said, "Grandpa, they are there—right on your face."

The old man realized that he was searching for his spectacles wearing them on his face.

On a dark night, a man was found to search for some article under the bright light of a street-lamp. Passers-by inquired about it. He replied that he was searching to find a lost needle. They gladly joined him in the search. After sometime they gave up the search as they could not find it. The man told them, "I was sure that you would not find it." They asked, "Why?" He replied, "That is because I lost the needle on the other side of the road." "But why did you search here, instead of searching on the other side?" they asked him. He replied calmly, "Simple. There is no light there. But here we have plenty of light." The people left the place shaking their head at the crazy man.

Man is in continual search for many things - God, peace and joy. But he forgets to find them within himself. Jesus taught, "The Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

Peace and joy are the results and reflections of a pure and innocent heart. "Happy are the pure in heart, they will see God!" (Matthew 5: 8). Let us learn to listen to the whisper of our conscience. That is the word of God from within us.

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INNOCENT INQUIRIES



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he replied that he was looking for his spectacles
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INNOCENT INQUIRIES

by Dr. Resmy Susan Babu, M.D.

A child complained to his mother that he has a severe stomach-ache. She told him, "It is because your belly is empty. Come and have some food." The child obeyed. The next day the mother had a heavy headache. The child consoled her, saying innocently, "Mommy, it is because your head is empty!"

On another occasion, the curious child asked his mother, "Mommy, why are some of your hairs turning grey?" She tried to use this occasion to reform him. "It is because of you, dear. Every bad action of yours will turn one of my hairs grey!" The child replied innocently, "Now I know why your mother has only grey hairs on her head." ~ ~ ~

A catechist was explaining in his class the verse 9 from Psalm 51: "Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, make me whiter than snow." An inquisitive student asked him, "What is meant by the word, 'hyssop'?" The teacher thought for a moment but could not recollect it. But he was reluctant to expose his ignorance before his students. He posed to be a scholar and explained that hyssop was a type of 'soap' used by King David to cleanse his body. The students were satisfied. But later on, they would have understood what hyssop really is and then they would have mocked at their haughty teacher. The hyssop is a Biblical bushy plant, whose twigs were dipped in sacrificial blood or blessed water and sprinkled on people or door-posts as a Jewish religious ritual for purification.

Parents and teachers often forget that children have the right to learn the truth from them. Children may try to imitate their parents and teachers as the children appreciate, admire and adore them. Children should hear and learn only the truth from their elders. Teachers, pastors, preachers and catechists need the humility to admit their ignorance in a particular matter before their students instead of imparting incorrect information, pretending to be scholars.

A true Christian should not tell a lie even if telling the truth may cause loss, suffering or pain. We should not tell a lie even if telling the lie may give us money, power or pleasure. St. Paul advises, "No more lying, then! Everyone must tell the truth to his fellow-believer, because we are all members together in the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:25).

Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free". John 8:32 "Just say 'yes' or 'no' anything else you say comes from the evil one (Matthew 5:37).

"You can be sure that on Judgement Day everyone will have to give account of every useless word he has ever spoken. Your words will be used to judge you to declare you either innocent or guilty" (Matthew 12:36, 37).

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A CHILD'S WONDER

by Dennis Fisher

In 19th-century Scotland, a young mother observed her three-year-old son's inquisitive nature. It seemed he was curious about everything that moved or made a noise. James Clark Maxwell would carry his boyhood wonder with him into a remarkable career in science. He went on to do groundbreaking work in electricity and magnetism. Years later, Albert Einstein would say of Maxwell's work that it was "the most fruitful that physics had experienced since the time of Newton."

From early childhood, religion touched all aspects of Maxwell's life. As a committed Christian, he prayed: "Teach us to study the works of Thy hands ... and strengthen our reason for Thy service." The boyhood cultivation of Maxwell's spiritual life and curiosity resulted in a lifetime of using science in service to the Creator.

The community of faith has always had the responsibility to nurture the talent of the younger generation and to orient their lives to the Lord, "that they may arise and declare [God's law] to their children, that they may set their hope in God" (Ps. 78:6-7).

Finding ways to encourage children's love for learning while establishing them in the faith is an important investment in the future.

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