



Excerpt from *The Release of the Spirit*

He said, "Those whom you see in the city of the ministers devoted all their lives to God.. They spent every moment of their time in the ministry. Do you not agree with me that the lives of St. Paul and other apostles, the lives of the bishops, priests and deacons and the lives of the saints? As for you my friend, you were not devoted to the ministry but you served the world.. All your spiritual ministry was just one hour every week in the Sunday Schools.. And sometimes your service in other fields made you give God another hour.. For those two hours then you want to be with the apostles, the prophets and the priests in the city of the ministers?'

During all this talk I was bowing my head in shame but I tried to overcome my bashfulness and dared to ask the angel, But I see in the city some of my colleagues the teachers of the Sunday Schools who did the same service like me' -

Here, the angel replied, 'No, they are not like you.. Though they served one hour or more in the Sunday Schools, they spent the whole week getting ready for that hour.. They spent much time preparing the lessons, the illustrative media, and the means which would make the persons ministered to desire to hear the lesson, and above all praying for all this.. They also gave much care to examine the state of each pupil separately and to think of a way to reform him.. Add to this their involvement in visiting those persons, and inventing useful means to fill the time of those pupils during the week.. Besides they had other concealed services which you do not know. They considered the spiritual ministry their main work and other worldly affairs as secondary.. This does not mean that they neglected their responsibilities and worldly duties; No, for they were very faithful and successful in performing them. Such worldly affairs even comprised some service! Thus God counted them consecrated'

Excerpt from *The Life of Thanksgiving*

The highest level of thanksgiving is to give thanks over tribulations. We thank God over the tribulations from which He saved us, and this is the least . But , what is greater than this is also thank Him over the prevailing tribulations which we bear and live in. And with faith we believe it is for our good. To endure and bear the tribulations is a virtue. To be content with the tribulation and accept it is a greater virtue. And more important is to give thanks over the tribulation, to thank with joy and not as mere duty. Believe me, if we thank over the gifts only, then our love is for the gifts not for God its Giver! But , if we give thanks to God over the tribulation we prove that we love God Himself and not His gift ie. we do not only love Him for what He gives us wealth, generosity, comforts of life, or what He grants us, calmness and peace God only is our goal , either He gave us tribulations or good things we thank Him on every occasion and in every condition we thank Him whatever happens, and do not allow mishaps to lessen our faith in God's protection or lessen our thanks to Him. We do not allow such events to take away our peace from us, or our rejoice in the Lord.

Excerpt from *Life of Repentance and Purity*

“There is nothing which the devil fights more than repentance, because it wastes all of his previous labor. Therefore it seems to be difficult, for when the person wants to repent, the devil places in front of him every stumbling block and obstruction that prohibits or delays his repentance.”