

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

God reveals them to us by His Spirit. Therefore until we come into the intimacy of friendship with God, we cannot get to know thoroughly

HIS WILL CONCERNING US.



No documents are kept more securely than wills, and even when a person's safe has been broken open and a will taken out of it, the wording will convey to no mind but that of a lawyer anything like the intent of the instrument. Just so, no one is able to understand the will of God until they are let unto the secret of the

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Lord; and those who endeavor to ascertain the will of God from His word, without first knowing him, find that the veil upon their hearts prevents them from comprehending Divine language. But, alas, how often do Christians hold back from obedience even to those commands which they distinctly recognize, until they have learned another secret,

HOW TO SURRENDER TO GOD.



When the besieged occupants of a fortress find their means of sustenance and of successful resistance are exhausted, the great question for them is how they can make the most favorable terms with their besiegers. Sometimes, when the very suggestion of surrender has brought disgrace, it has been found possible at length to make the most honorable terms. Humanity, in their folly, always strives

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to maintain the independence of their own will, and pride themselves upon their self-control; but oh, how miserable are their best attempts to rid themselves of wrong and to govern themselves aright! Ah! They do not know the secret of surrendering to the Lord, who alone reigns in righteousness. Those who give up all into His hand find that they have not submitted themselves to a stranger; they get to know

HOW TO BE UNITED WITH GOD.

It is not the foe who comes in to take possession of the conquest. It is the Almighty Friend who opens with the soul a community of safety and joy. Just as the garrison of a detached fort is continually reinforced and supplied from the main fortress, so the Lord constantly communicates to those who give up their all to Him all the grace and strength they need day by day. Such people only can say, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." But even these people have need to pray, "When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I;" for there are times when there is no other way to preserve the soul in life but to withdraw it into the "strong Rock." But oh! to know

THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH!

There are places in your house where anyone may go, and drawers that anyone may open. You may go and find that everything in some one drawer has been turned upside down, and you may even see windows and doors left open, and the contents of the room blown about in all directions by the wind. But if you have precious things to keep, there is some special place in which you keep them. There is, perhaps, even a secret drawer, unknown and invisible to any ordinary eye, in which your choicest goods are bestowed.

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There are Christians who live so much amongst worldly things that it seems the easiest thing conceivable for the devil to crush their life out under a load of care and riches. Anyone can go and worry them and turn them aside. Any breath of fashion or human praise or ridicule can dissipate all their good resolutions and vows. But there are Christians who give themselves into God's hands, whom He keeps as the apple of His eye. They dwell in God, and are kept in perfect peace, because their minds are stayed upon Him. They understand what the peace of God is, for they know

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HOW TO LIVE LIKE GOD.



How beautifully do all the Divine attributes blend in one grand harmonious whole. It is this settling and balancing of character that makes the happiest and most useful life; but it is only the finger of God that can trace on human nature His own image, and only when that image is renewed in the heart does a person learn

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HOW TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY.

It would have been thought an absurdly utopian idea had anyone suggested fifty years ago that the Shah of Persia, while himself in London, might converse with his ministers at home; but no one now disputes the possibility of what has been actually done. And so with many other things that are done by means of some patented invention.

Many persons now scout the idea of a person's living in this world without sin as simply absurd. But God has found out a means of making a person's life holy and always well-pleasing in His sight. This is God's patent; but anyone may work it if they will only acknowledge God in all their ways. Only such people know

HOW THE LORD LOVES HIS OWN.

There is a friendship closer than any other. There is a freedom and fullness of love that is only known to those between whom it exists. Such love, such intimacy,



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such friendship, can exist between God and humanity, and does exist between Him and those who know "the secret of the Lord."

What a bright morning it is for a person's soul when they see that there is love in God towards them, and says for the first time, "I love the Lord my God, because He has heard my voice and my supplications!" But what a glorious noonday comes when a person is willing that the Sun of Righteousness should rule their day of life. How the beams of light and love come streaming down upon them from the eternal throne! It is a new life: it is the life of God upon earth. Oh! Why should any believer rest amidst the clouds and shadows of a half-developed Christianity, when they might in a moment "rise into the life of God, all the glorious life of love." Why? Simply because we will not believe God means what He says. He pledges His own life to us, and says, "Because I live you will also live." How long will we doubt Him? How long will we refuse to live as He lives? Oh! for grace this moment to say, "Because He lives, I will live." I will live for God alone. I will not tolerate anything of death in me or about me another hour. I will choose life, - life only, - Divine life.

Lord, speak, and my soul shall live! Amen!