

A LADDER TO HOLINESS

Being Seven Steps leading to
FULL SALVATION

BY THE LATE
GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH



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— A —

Ladder to Holiness,

BEING SEVEN STEPS LEADING

TO

FULL SALVATION.



By GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH.



THIS ladder is constructed on the plan described in the tract entitled, "How to be Saved,"* and is intended for the use of those seeking for Holiness of Heart. To those who wish to use it we give the same counsel with which we commence the former, namely:—

1.—Set apart a special time for its consideration, retiring for the purpose, if possible, into some place where you can be alone with God.

2.—Read the paper carefully and thoughtfully from first to last, and then go through it again as afterwards described.

3.—Earnestly pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

* HOW TO BE SAVED, a Ladder of Seven Steps, by which any Sinner may climb out of the condemnation and bondage of his sins into the forgiveness and favour of God. By THE FOUNDER. Price One Penny. Six Shillings per hundred.

4.—On your knees before God, with all your heart take one step at a time. Be careful not to leave the first step for the second until it is clearly understood, heartily accepted, and solemnly decided upon; and so on with the second and third steps, until the last is reached.

5.—If this course be followed in sincerity, I feel quite sure that the desired blessing of "a clean heart" will be attained.

FIRST STEP.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

I am a child of God. I can with confidence call God my Father. I know that Jesus Christ is my Saviour, and that he has pardoned my sins. I have been converted—that is, my heart and life have been changed by the Spirit of God. The fear of Death and Judgment and Hell has been taken away. I love God, and want to please Him. I hate sin, and want to be entirely delivered from it. I pray and read my Bible, and love Christ's people. I do a little work and give a little money to extend the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth, and very much wish that I could do more. I have a good hope that my Saviour will be with me when I come to die, that He will acquit me in the Day of Judgment, and then receive me into Heaven to dwell with Him for ever.

SECOND STEP.

I KNOW, WITH SORROW, THAT SIN STILL EXISTS IN MY HEART AND LIFE.

But although I have this assurance that I am a child of God, I know also to my sorrow that there are evils still

existing in my heart and life which ought not to be there, and which I very much wish could be removed. For instance, there are in my soul the remains of:

PRIDE,	LOVE OF THE
VANITY,	PLEASURES AND
BAD TEMPER,	TREASURES OF
MALICE, HATRED,	THE WORLD,
AND BITTERNESS,	SELFISHNESS,
REVENGEFULNESS,	WANT OF THOROUGH
AMBITION,	TRUTHFULNESS,
LUST,	ENVY, ETC., ETC.
SLOTH,	

Honestly select from this list the particular evil, or evils, which you have reason to believe exist within your own heart, with which you have to fight, and which every now and then overcome and lead you into actual sin.

Look at that particular sin or sins, when discovered, until you see and feel their hateful-ness, and until you detest and loathe them.

I find that these evils manifest themselves in my conversation, in the manner I discharge my family duties, in the way I conduct my business, and in almost every part of my daily life.

I feel that these evils damage my example as a Salvationist, and very often prevent me reproving sin in those around me, because I feel when I do so that I lay myself open to the charge "Physician, heal thyself." I feel that these "evils" interfere greatly with my happiness, causing me much irritation and vexation of spirit, often leading me into open sin, on account of which I am brought into condemnation and have to seek forgiveness.

But, most deplorable of all, I know that these evils grieve my Saviour, being contrary to His Will concerning me, and in direct opposition to His word.

I am sure I hate these sins, and long to be delivered from them.

THIRD STEP.

I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE ME FROM ALL SIN.

From what I have read in the Bible, by what I have heard from my comrades, and by the light God has given me by His Holy Spirit in my own heart, I now see and believe that it is possible for me to be delivered from all inward and outward sins, and that I can be made holy in this life. I believe that I can, as the Scriptures say, be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, and be enabled to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord.

I do not expect to be delivered from temptation or from sorrow, or from suffering, or from the possibility of falling into sin, in this world; but I do believe that God can work such a change in my appetites and dispositions, and give me such a measure of the power of His Holy Spirit, as will enable me to live without committing sin. For now I see that the purpose for which Jesus Christ was born into the world, and for which He lived and died and rose again, was to destroy the works of the Devil out of my heart and out of my life.

I believe that this blessing of holiness is offered to me in the Bible, and urged upon my acceptance by the Holy Spirit, and that God is waiting to cleanse me from all impurity and make me clean. Even now, while I kneel before Him, He is saying to me, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to

walk in my statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do them."

"Oh, joyful sound of Gospel grace,
Christ shall in me appear;
I, even I, shall see His face,
I shall be holy here.
My heart shall be His constant home,
I hear His Spirit's cry;
Surely He saith, 'I quickly come,'
He saith Who cannot lie."

FOURTH STEP.

I NOW CHOOSE, WITH ALL MY HEART, TO BE HOLY.

Believing that God has promised to cleanse my heart and my life when I ask Him to do so with all my heart, I do here and now choose to be holy, and determine to seek this blessing, and to obtain it, cost me what it may. I plainly see that I shall not gain it without difficulty. But although I may have to give up some things that appear pleasant to me, and do some things that I would prefer not to do; and although I may have to battle with the Enemy of my soul, who will not want me to be holy, and to struggle with my own heart of fearfulness and unbelief before I can enter into this promised land of holiness—still I feel sure that the treasure is worth any effort or sacrifice that I may be called upon to make, to obtain it.

FIFTH STEP.

I RENOUNCE ALL KNOWN SIN AND ALL DOUBTFUL THINGS.

Seeing that holiness means living without sin, and that God has commanded

me to sanctify and make myself holy, which means that I must be a partner with Him in the great work of cleansing my heart and life, I do now fully resolve that I will do all that I can to purify myself. I therefore do here and now thoughtfully and solemnly renounce everything that appears to be contrary to the will and wishes of my Lord and Saviour and opposed to the real happiness and holiness of my fellow-creatures.

(a) I put away everything evil in the thoughts, feelings, and imaginations of my heart.

(b) I give up all that appears to be evil, wasteful, or impure in my personal habits, whether in my eating, drinking, dressing, talking, or in any other particular.

(c) I give up and abandon everything that is wrong in the way I conduct myself in my family, in my dealings with my wife or husband (if I am married), with my children or servants (if I have any), in my conduct towards my master or mistress (if I am so employed), and in my business and the general conduct of my daily life.

(d) Nay, not only do I here renounce those things which I know to be evil, but those things which appear to me to be doubtful. I will abstain from doing, or allowing to be done, so far as I can, anything about the rightness or wrongness of which I have any serious doubt. I read in my Bible that, "He that doubteth is damned," which means condemned; and I will not be condemned by doing doubtful things.

SIXTH STEP.

I CONSECRATE MYSELF FULLY TO THE SERVICE OF GOD.

Not only do I, by God's help, promise to cease from all evil, but I do fully and freely consecrate myself, here and now, to the service of my Lord. I deliberately and cheerfully lay myself and whatever I possess at His feet, and beg Him to make what use He can of so poor, weak, and unworthy an instrument as I am, and of such trifling treasures as I possess, for the promotion of His glory and the welfare of His creatures, both in this world and in the world to come.

I give Him my body that it may henceforth become His dwelling-place; I give Him my hands, feet, eyes, ears, tongue, and everything else connected with my body, together with all its appetites and powers, for Him to keep and employ as He sees fit.

I give Him my mind, with all its faculties of memory, judgment, imagination, conscience, and will, that He may cleanse it and preserve it blameless to the day of His coming.

I give Him my Heart, with all there is in it—its capacities for affection, hatred, worship, hope, fear, faith—in order that He may purify, occupy, and fill it with His love.

I give Him my goods, and promise to regard them as belonging to Him and to His kingdom, solemnly engaging to use them in such a way as I have reason to believe He will approve, and as He shall show me will be most productive of His glory and the benefit of my fellow-men.

In short, I give Him my life, and promise to regard myself henceforth as

belonging as much to Him in the place where I now live as I expect I shall do when I come to live with Him in Heaven. I leave my condition and position entirely to His good pleasure. He can make me poor or rich, sick or well, the head or the foot. He can keep me on earth, or take me to Heaven. I belong to Him.

SEVENTH STEP.

I BELIEVE THAT GOD, FOR JESUS CHRIST'S SAKE, CLEANSSES ME NOW.

And now, O Lord, believing that You want me to be holy, that Jesus Christ by His death has purchased for me this deliverance from all evil, and that You have promised to make me holy when I seek for the blessing with all my heart; and having the witness that I do at this moment renounce every evil way and present myself a living sacrifice according to Your wish; I believe that You do here and now accept my offering and purify my heart.

As a stone which the builder takes and lays upon the foundation, so I this moment lay myself on the sure foundation which Jesus Christ has laid, even His own blessed broken body—a sacrifice which by its infinite merit covers all the sins of my past life, and sanctifies the imperfect offering which I now make, and, regardless of fears and feelings, I do now believe that You do, for Christ's sake, receive the offering that I make, and that the Blood of Jesus Christ does this moment cleanse me from all inward and outward sin. Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, and glory be to the Holy Ghost! I am fully the Lord's and He is fully mine!

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