

"The Lost Presence"

Have you lost something? <sup>New Dominion</sup> 3-28-41.

Scripture Lessons - Judges 16: 4-20

Text: - Judges 16: 20.

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Idea: - The Christian life is one of constant growth and progress until the "measure of the fullness of the stature which is in Christ Jesus" is reached. But alas, there <sup>are</sup> not many such, many are best characterized by "ups and downs". Then there are some which never develop at all. There is a long period of infancy with many there is retrogression; a going backward. They actually lose ground. They slip, they lose <sup>out of their lives</sup> some of the Christian characteristics. They are like Samson "unaware" for a moment that they <sup>have</sup> lost the Lord.

"were you ever converted?"

Have you lost something?

Let us go back tonight to that time when you were a trembling sinner, when "love and mercy found you, at the foot of the cross. What had you then, <sup>what</sup> you had then you should have now, only in a greater measure, what had you then.

- 1. you had a sense of



Subjectively

1. Assurance - acceptance  
had "been there, now I was gone, you had con-  
 fessed it, but had forgiven"
2. Sense of wholeness - purity -

"Put God  
first in  
your life"

1. Come with a sense of being  
 undone, a sense of stain of sin  
 upon your soul. But after you came  
 your faith you were white as snow.  
 You gave up unclean & sinful things, etc
1. Sense of joy - a joy of liberation  
you were delivered from sin. Have you look  
 to sins you which  
 you were once bound.

"Had a  
Testimony"

"Had a  
progen  
life"

Objectively

3. Joy - a joy of freedom, there  
 was a deep undercurrent of happiness  
 in your soul. Do you have it  
 now, or have you lost it? Do you  
 ever rejoice over the hour when  
 you gave your heart to God.

Love all  
men?

4. Love for all men.

1. Loved everyone. Enemies, you  
 went to those whom you had wronged  
 of whom you had spoken evil of and  
 made Confession. Have you lost  
 that? People now you would forgive?  
 Still gudge against.

5. Tolerance - Tolerance of others.  
 Able to see the best in people <sup>Always</sup>  
 looking for their virtues. Have you lost  
 that? Are you now harsh and critical  
 of others. Do you find fault with your  
 brethren? With those who do not  
 agree with you? Sure sign that you  
 have become backslidden when you become  
 critical and faultfinding.



6. Passion for Salvation of  
Others?

1. How you wanted others  
saved? Had you prayed for  
them - etc.

Conc:- Have you lost something?  
I am not asking whether or not  
you are a Christian? I am  
asking you are you as good  
a Christian tonight as you once  
were? Or have you lost some  
thing?

Come to Cross tonight where  
you once came. Come and  
ask God to restore that which  
you let slip, which you have  
lost. He can do it, will you  
let him. Come now.