



the
blessings
of
closed doors

by T. A. DAVIS

"I WANTED IT SO VERY MUCH," he said as he talked to a friend of a past desire, "but now I am glad that I did not get it. I can see, looking back, that it would have changed the whole current of my life, and changed it for the worse. I would never have attained to what I have if my desire had been granted."

How many of us have, like him, had doors that we ardently desired to have open to us, remain firmly closed, only to see later that God's hand was on the latch for our good.

"God is too wise to err," wrote one author who had a deep knowledge of spiritual things, "and too good to withhold any good thing from His saints that walk uprightly." Man is erring, and although his petitions are sent up from an honest heart, he does not always ask for the things that are good for himself, or that will glorify God. When this is so, our wise and good Father hears our prayers, and will answer, sometimes immediately; but He gives us the things that are for our best good and His own glory.

God invites us to make our desires known to Him. Having done this we should leave it to Him to give, to refuse, or to bestow something altogether different than what we asked, as He knows to be best. And we should thank Him for His gift, or for His refusal, even though we may be disappointed at the time, bearing in mind the words of the psalmist, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11).

We recall the story of a mother whose only child became very sick. The woman loved her small boy passionately, and could not bear the thought of his dying. So she went to God in prayer and fervently, insistently, asked that his life be spared. As she prayed the impression came to her that it was better that the child die. She would not accept this, but steadfastly asked God that he live.

The boy was spared. But in later years that mother had many occasions when she wished with tears that she had surrendered to God's way and let him die. For her son grew up to be a hardened criminal who broke his mother's heart and finally died on the gallows.

It is not pleasant to have doors that we wish opened to be closed fast to us. But we should remember that God never locks one door but that He opens another, better one. And if we will but wait for His providences we will yet see the day when we will be able to say: Could we have seen the end from the beginning we would not have chosen to have things happen other than the way He has worked them out for us. □

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