

## The Life of God in the Soul of Man – Lesson 8

### Henry Scougal

Scougal has defined true religion for us. He has shown us its perfection in the life of Jesus Christ. He has taught us of its beauty and profitableness. Now in this last section of the letter Scougal will help us with the \_\_\_\_\_ side of things. How does this divine life grow? Is there something that we should/must do for this life to increase in us?

Before Scougal jumps into the practical he first helps us out of the pit of \_\_\_\_\_. After we understand what the divine life is and how wonderfully profitable it is, a common response is that of despair. We may doubt whether we have actually attained true religion at all. We may wonder, “What if I just fooled myself and thought I was a Christian but am not really one at all”. Or perhaps we conclude as we look around at other professing Christians that the divine life is impossible to attain.

*“There are still some worldly desires lurking in my heart, and those vanities that I have shut out of the doors are always getting in by the windows.”*

*“In a word, when I reflect on my highest and most specious attainments, I have reason to suspect that they are all but the effects of nature, the issues of self-love acting under several disguises; and this principle is so powerful and so deeply rooted in me that I can never hope to be delivered from dominion of it. I may toss and turn as a door on the hinges, but can never get clear off or be quite unhinged of self, which is still the center of all my motions. So that all the advantage I can draw from the discovery of religion is but to see at a huge distance that felicity which I am not able to reach; like a man in a shipwreck, who discerns the land and envies the happiness of those who are there, but thinks it impossible for himself to get ashore.”*

To those of us who feel this all too sharply, we are encouraged to take heart.

**The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ God-** *“The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Let us be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might; for He it is that shall tread down our enemies.”*

**Look to Christ and see God’s \_\_\_\_\_** - *“God hath a tender regard unto the souls of men and is infinitely willing to promote their welfare. He have condescended to our weakness and declared with an oath that He hath no pleasure in our destruction...He created us at first in a happy condition; and now, when we are fallen from it, He hath laid help upon One that is mighty to save, hath committed the care of our souls to no meaner person than the eternal Son of His love. It is He that is the Captain of our salvation, and what enemies can be too strong for us when we are fighting under His banner?”*

**Christ died to save us-He will also \_\_\_\_\_ and grow us-** *“Certainly it is impossible that this great contrivance of heaven should prove abortive, that such a mighty undertaking should fain and miscarry.”*

**Christ is a \_\_\_\_\_ High Priest-** *“He is tender and compassionate; He knoweth our infirmities and had experience of our temptations.”*

**The Holy Spirit will not let you \_\_\_\_\_** - *“When once it (the divine life) hath taken hold of a soul and kindled in it the smallest spark of divine love, it will be sure to preserve and cherish and bring it forth into a flame which many waters shall not quench, neither shall floods be able to drown it.”*

**\_\_\_\_\_ is a foreign invader and will be dispelled by God-** *“Sin and corruption are but usurpers, and thought they have long kept the possession, yet from the beginning it was not so. That inordinate self-love which one would think were rooted in our very being and interwoven with the constitution of our nature is nevertheless of foreign extraction and had no place at all in the state of integrity.”*

**The forces of God in \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_ are fighting for us-** *“No sooner shall we take up arms in this holy war but we shall have all the saints on earth and all the angels in heaven engaged on our party.”*