

jul 19

drive a stake down

"bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar." psalms 118:27

is not this altar inviting thee? shall we not ask to be bound to it, that we may never be able to start back from our attitude of consecration? there are times when life is full of roseate light, and we choose the cross; at other times, when the sky is grey, we shrink from it. it is well to be bound.

wilt Thou bind us, most blessed Spirit, and enamor us with the cross, and let us never leave it? bind us with the scarlet cord of redemption, and the golden cord of love, and the silver cord of advent-hope, so we will not go back from it, or wish for another lot than to be the humble partners with our Lord in His pain and sorrow!

the horns of the altar invite thee. wilt thou come? wilt thou dwell ever in a spirit of resigned humility, and give thyself wholly to the Lord?

the story is told of a colored brother who, at a camp meeting, tried to give himself to God. every night at the altar he consecrated himself; but every night before he left the meeting, the devil would come to him and convince him that he did not feel any different and therefore he was not consecrated. again and again he was beaten back by the adversary. finally, one evening he came to the meeting with an axe and a big stake.

after consecrating himself, he drove the stake into the ground just where he had knelt. as he was leaving the building, the devil came to him as usual and tried to make him believe that it was all a farce.

at once he went back to the stake and, pointing to it, said, "look here, mr. devil, do you see that stake? well, that's my witness that God has forever accepted me." immediately the devil left him, and he had no further doubts on the subject. (from the still small voice)

beloved, if you are tempted to doubt the finality of your consecration, drive a stake down somewhere and let it be your witness before God and even the devil that you have settled the question forever.

are you groping for a blessing,
never getting there?
listen to a word in season,
get somewhere.

are you struggling for salvation
by your anxious prayer?
stop your struggling, simply trust, and –
get somewhere.

does the answer seem to linger
to your earnest prayer?
turn your praying into praise, and –
get somewhere.

you will never know His fulness
till you boldly dare

to commit your all to Him, and –
get somewhere.

– songs of the spirit

public domain content taken from streams in the desert
by mrs. charles cowman.

i used to have a preacher and i remember hearing him
saying often, drive a stake into the ground when you
really feel His presence and know that no one can dig
it up but you. i don't know if he ever heard the story
i have just related or not, but it really doesn't
matter. it's a good practice.

i drove my "forever" stake down in 1984, the night my
mother died and because i "heard" the Lord, she was
allowed to die in my arms; in my arms with my spirit
being unburdened by guilt. my soul was feeling used
and put upon when suddenly i heard a whisper in my
spirit, "if you don't do it in love, it doesn't mean
anything."

talk about grace. that's the kind of love and mercy we
serve. "i am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things
present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor
any other created thing, shall be able to separate us
from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our
Lord." rom 8:38 if anyone doesn't know that love,
search Jesus out now. "He is not far from each one of
us; for in Him we live and move and have our being."

acts 17-27-28 if you do know Him, just love on Him
more!