

# **MY RELIGION IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

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My Religion in Everyday Life by Josiah Strong

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BY

JOSIAH STRONG

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Challenges of the City," "Expansion," "The  
Next Great Awakening," "The Times  
and Young Men," etc., etc.*



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## FOREWORD

The results of modern Biblical criticism, the passing of theology into solution, and the shifting of the currents of thought have made it difficult for many men to keep their religion.

What a man really needs is a religion that will *keep him*,—keep him patient and strong and hopeful under the wear and tear of life; keep him sufficiently alive and growing to readjust himself to changing conditions; keep his face to the future and maintain and deepen his interest in the public welfare and the progress of the world; keep his heart warm toward God and his brother men.

The man of strong religious convictions is confident that the future life

### *Foreword*

will stamp his particular faith as the genuine thing, and that the deluded believers in other isms will then be forced to recognize the superiority of his.

But I submit that a religion is to be tested by this life rather than the next. If our conceptions of heaven are at all correct, it is a deal harder to keep clean and unselfish and faithful down here than it is up there. We are supposed to have got through with temptations, struggles, disappointments and bereavements when we reach heaven. It is when the tempest is driving us toward the rocks that the anchor and chain are tested, not after we have reached the peaceful harbor.

The real question is what is a man's religion worth to him here and now? What does it enable him to become, and what does it inspire him to do? And it is very unlikely that the religion which



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makes most of a man here will make less than the most of him hereafter.

This is a practical age and we are a practical people, hence it is not the theory but the practice of religion which appeals to us. Not creed, not logic, but experience is the test. That religion is best which in a great variety of circumstances works best.

The past fifty years have been probably the most interesting half century in the history of the world; and doubtless the two great revolutions which have taken place—the one in the world of thought, the other in the physical world—requiring a double readjustment of life, have put as great a strain on religious faith as it is likely to suffer at any time.

My religious experience has covered precisely that period, and has enabled me to make a readjustment of faith and

### *Foreword*

life which was of vital importance. This change was made not only without loss of faith, but with unspeakable gain of conviction, of joy and, I trust, of usefulness.

The vast majority of the members of our churches have not yet made this readjustment. Many are in the midst of the process, and not a few are losing their way.

It has been thought that my experience might be helpful to others. Hence on the following invitation of an editor I have told what my religion means to me.

The less restricted limits of this little book permit me to expand somewhat the original paper.

I hope that it may help many to enlarge their religion to the full measure of life.

*Foreword*

THE CIRCLE MAGAZINE.

*Dear Dr. Strong:*

*I am asking a number of people who are prominent in the world of laymen a question which I wish also to put to you, as a sincere Christian rather than a minister of the Gospel.*

*What does your Faith really mean to you?*

*To one man his religion is a creed; to another a hope; to a third an anchor. To one man it is an actual factor in his daily life and business, a spur to ambition, a source of power through prayer, a check against wrong doing; to another it is a vague indefinite spiritual exaltation; to another still, a matter of Sunday services and Wednesday prayer meetings. To some men it is all of these things, and to others perhaps something entirely different.*

*I am trying to find out just what*