

**MEMOIRS, OR,
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES
OF ELISABETH WEST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649646814

Memoirs, Or, Spiritual Exercises of Elisabeth West by Elisabeth West

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ELISABETH WEST

**MEMOIRS, OR,
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES
OF ELISABETH WEST**

MEMOIRS,
OR
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES
OF
ELISABETH WEST.

WRITTEN BY HER OWN HAND.

"Oh, how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them
that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in
thee before the sons of men."

PSAL. CXXI. 19.

A NEW EDITION.

ABERDEEN:
PUBLISHED BY GEORGE KING,
36, ST. NICHOLAS STREET;
WAUGH AND INNES, AND WILLIAM OLIPHANT,
EDINBURGH; AND GEORGE GALLIE, GLASGOW.

1836.

ABERDEEN:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM ANDERSON,
49, UPPERKIRK GATE.



1771
1819
1861

THE
EXERCISES
OF
ELISABETH WEST.

PSALM lvi. 16.

*“ Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will
declare what he hath done for my soul.”*

THOUGH I cannot tell the time and place, when and where the Lord did me first good ; yet this I know, that he began with me very early, when I was young in years, to incline my heart to seek the Lord. I wanted not good education from my mother, and likewise from my aunt, who was a godly woman, and took much pains on me. When I was conversing with my comrades, I would be telling them what my mother was saying to me, That if I were good, I would get heaven. Now, thought I, heaven was such a place, where I would get fine clothes, and everything that was brave and bonny.

This so allured me, that I could been content to do any thing to get to heaven : I resolved, I would neither swear nor lie, nor do anything that was ill ; but I

would pray and seek the Lord, then I would be sure to get to heaven; yet I found a strong inclination in my heart to break all my resolutions: for, the first temptation that came in my way to sin, I embraced it cheerfully. I was extraordinarily given to play of all sorts, which took my heart wholly up, so that I thought it a melancholy thing to be religious; but when I had gone to my bed, I would think, what if I go to hell, where I will never come out? That word *never*, wrought strongly on me; but the remedy I took to still my conscience was, I would say my prayers I learned at the school; then I was well enough. I cannot distinctly give an account how I spent my time: for some years I satisfied myself with the Pharisee's religion, that I was not so ill as others; but, in the Lord's own time, when he was pleased to send the Gospel among us at the revolution, then I began more serious-like to seek the Lord; I left off my form of prayer, and betook me to another way which I thought would please God better. I was for a considerable time under the ministry of Mr. William Erskine: all that I can observe, during the time he preached among us, was, that I attained to a great delight in hearing the word, which wrought upon my affections, that I durst not neglect secret prayer; where sometimes I would be very tender, and shed some tears, then I thought there was no doubt but I was converted. It pleased the Lord to remove this faithful servant by death.

Then I frequently heard great Mr. James Kirkton

with a great deal of delight ; for his sermons were very taking and good for the memory ; the which I had been telling to others, they commended me ; so I gained a great deal of applause with those among whom I conversed. This pleased me extremely, though I knew never what it was to make application of any thing I heard. O how great reason have I to wonder and admire at the goodness of the Lord, that did not send me to the pit in this selfish condition ! seeking justification by works, never remembering what I was by nature. In this case I remained until it pleased the Lord to send Mr. George Meldrum to be our minister, in place of Mr. William Erskine, who was the Lord's messenger to me indeed : the first time I heard him I thought I felt something I never felt before, but knew not what it was ; that word was made out to me, Hos. xi. 1, 2, 3. He preached on these words, Josh. xxiv. 15. " Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Where he besought us earnestly with tears that we should choose presently whom we should serve. He said, " Many will say, I will do that afterwards ; but few will say, I will choose presently. He protested, he would not go out of the pulpit till we would give our consent presently to the bargain without delay." If I right remember, this was the first time that ever I could observe the Lord speaking to me in public. At this time I thought the Lord made me willing in a day of his power to choose and consent to serve the Lord. O that I may never forget this day !

After this there arose some fears on my spirit, that

the Lord did not regard any thing I did ; I thought my prayers were lost, for I could observe no answer ; ~~that~~ that word came to me, Heb. xiii. 5. " I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." But, I now knowing there was such a word in the Bible, it yielded me some small comfort ; this being the first time that ever my ears were opened to hear Christ preached in such a manner as now God eminently helped him to preach, and me to hear. At this time he told us, " That all our prayers were rejected by God, unless they were first put into the hands of Jesus Christ ; and that, if we had not a saving uptaking of Christ in his natures as God-man, and in his offices as prophet, priest, and king, in every duty, it could not be accepted by God." Then I was struck with astonishment : For I was persuaded, that never a duty I had performed was accepted ; for I never employed Christ to any. Now it was not in one preaching or two that he delivered these truths, but distinctly he preached on every one of them from several texts of Scripture ; such as Gal. iv. 4, 5. " But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, that he might redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Matth. i. 21. " And thou shalt call his name Jesus : for he shall save his people from their sins." Acts iii. 22. " A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me, him shall ye hear. And whosoever will not hear this prophet, shall be cut off from among the people." Psalm ii. 6. " I have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion."

Heb. vii. 26. "Such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." O what love and desire was wrought in my heart after Christ, the time that these words were opened up, when I heard what he had done and suffered for poor sinners! yea, Jesus won my heart to himself by love. Our minister also held forth the sufferings of Christ, from John iii. 14, 15. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." He not only preached to us on the sufferings of Christ, of which I never heard the like before, (for I thought every sentence was a wonder, and was backed with the power of God,) but also he made offers of that Christ to all that would receive him: this was the blesseddest news that ever I heard. Likewise he offered the cross, with all the circumstances thereof, to every one that had received Christ: to which my heart gave consent to take Christ, with cross and loss whatsoever, and that cheerfully, without any hanker in my heart.

After this I found corruption begin to stir in me: but, whatever troubled me, I got it spoken to on the Sabbath day, which struck me with wonder. I several times resorted to Mr. Meldrum, and told him my case, (though very confusedly,) his converse to me was both meek and comfortable; but particularly he exhorted me to keep a record of all the Lord's dealings with my soul, (if I could write.) I thought this a strange command: but I heard the same exhortation from Mr. John