

**THE INNER LIFE:
THOUGHTS AND
THEMES TO AID
AND STRENGTHEN IT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649613984

The Inner Life: Thoughts and Themes to Aid and Strengthen It by John G. Adams

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JOHN G. ADAMS

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THE INNER LIFE.

*THOUGHTS AND THEMES TO AID
AND STRENGTHEN IT.*

BY
Greenleaf
JOHN G. ADAMS, D.D.

"He that believeth hath the witness in himself." — 1 *Johs* v. 10.

"God grant you to be strengthened with might by his spirit in
the inner man." — *Eph.* iii. 16.

BOSTON:
UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1884.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS:
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.



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To My Wife :

COMPANION AND HELPER IN THE CHRISTIAN
SERVICE AND LIFE.

"There is a religion behind all religions, and happy is the man who knows it in these days of materialism and atheism." — MAX MÜLLER.

"The thing we are apt to fail of to-day is not breadth and thoroughness of knowledge of what is about us, but of what is above and within us." — REV. T. T. MUNGER, "Freedom of Faith," p. 53.

"What is it, that I, as to my person, have lived here or there, or done this or that? It is the journeys the soul has made, the altars it has built, and the inscriptions it has written thereon, which constitute a life." — MRS. H. C. McCABE.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is a twofold life for us all, the inward and the outward. That the outward be right and true, the inward must be. Here is just where Christian instruction begins with man, by enlisting his heart, — his affections; putting them in tune, that the true life shall be given out from them. Being born again, born from above, renewed by heavenly love, all this implies rightness at heart. The Christian is in reality what his inner life makes him. He may appear to men in one aspect, and to God entirely in another. If there is to be a good and strong life-work done, there must be a strong life-power within to render this work actual, continual, and effective. If the Golden Rule is to be observed, it will not be by any ordinary cleverness of the individual, any contentedness with a kind of average piety and benevolence which may be natural to the soul without much extra exercise or striving. You must have a living, wakeful, watchful, prayerful soul

to do that, or it will not be done. It was with this inner life that Jesus had most to do. It is more than anything else insisted upon in the New Testament. "We know that he abideth in us by the spirit which he hath given us."

The reader will note in these pages very plain indications of the theological opinions and connections of the writer; but also, it is hoped, some good measure of that charity ever in readiness to accept and give out the benediction, "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

That those who consult these few pages may be directed to the attainment and enjoyment of the "eternal life" in Christ, is the earnest prayer of the writer.

J. G. A.

MELROSE HIGHLANDS, MASS.,

December 1, 1883.

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