

**A FEW HELPFUL THOUGHTS:
CHOSEN BY A CHRISTIAN
FROM THE WRITINGS OF
ANNIE BESANT**

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A Few Helpful Thoughts: Chosen by a Christian from the Writings of Annie Besant by Annie Besant

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ANNIE BESANT

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**A Few Helpful Thoughts,
chosen by a Christian,
from the Writings of
Annie Besant**

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for
it is God which worketh in you."—PHIL. II. 12, 13.

"Even if attainment is poor, ideal should be high."

CANON WILBERFORCE

"Within the egg how darkly lies
Even the bird of paradise
Predestined for the sunniest skies!
Yet forth it comes, away it flies
The breaking egg—be that thy sign:
Thou shalt begin, not cease to shine."

THOMAS LYNCH

Theosophical Publishing Society,
26, Charing Cross, S.W.
1897.

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PREFACE.

To all who are seeking to cultivate the Higher Self, the following quotations must surely prove inspiring. They are meant for those (whether Christian or Theosophist) who have not time to read Mrs. Besant's larger books, yet may be glad of this opportunity for studying her thoughts in a form so simple.

M. B. I.

CHRIST is not only to be a man external to His followers. He is to be formed as the babe within the womb in the heart of everyone of His disciples. And this Christ who is to be born in the disciple is to grow, is to develop within him, until at last the man has attained unto "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." They are to become manifested Gods, they are to become Gods manifest in the flesh.

(Four Great Religions, p. 162.)

The Law of Sacrifice which brings about the union of man with God, is shown forth in Christianity by the perfect Sacrifice of the Christ to the will of God.

(Ibid., p. 166.)

The strong will is determined chiefly by intellect; the weak will by feeling.

(Sin and Crime, p. 14.)

A truth is vindicated by enquiry; those who hold

a truth only become more certain of it when questioning forces them to re-examine the grounds on which it rests. But a lie perishes under investigation as a moth shrivels in the flame.

(Why should Atheists be persecuted, p. 182.)

Progress can be made only by re-affirming truth known, by discovering truth hitherto unknown, and by destroying ancient falsehoods.

(Ibid.)

Weakness which results in misery to others is no longer a pardonable frailty—it is a crime.

(Unknown.)

Unhappiness, like pain, is Nature's check to our mistakes, and her spur to our indolence.

(The True Basis of Morality, p. 11.)

Obedience to law must necessarily result in harmony, and disobedience in discord. But if obedience to law result in harmony, it must also result in happiness;

for when our actions are in harmony with each other, and with our environment, they find nothing against which they can jar, and a feeling of satisfaction arises from the consciousness of this smooth working, (*i.e.*) we feel happiness.

(Ibid., p. 12.)

What does it matter if in some small strife we failed or we succeeded? What does it matter that we were slighted by one, praised by another?

(The Place of Peace, p. 4.)

We can cultivate indifference to small discomforts, to pleasures of the table, to physical enjoyments, bearing with good-humoured tolerance outward things as they come, neither shunning nor courting small pleasures or pains. . . . The body is not to be shattered: it is to be trained.

(Ibid., pp. 9, 10.)

Man's most precious flowers of virtues are but unfolded buds that were known as pains and sorrows;