

Are You Cheating Yourself?

by Harold Fite

Back in the depression era, there was a sheep rancher in West Texas by the name of Yates. His bills had piled up; he was behind on his mortgage; and feared the bank would foreclose. With little money for food and clothes, he had to live on government subsidy.

One day an oil company research crew appeared asking permission to explore for oil. Yates signed a lease and at 1,116 feet the crew struck an enormous oil reserve.

The first well began pumping 80,000 barrels a day. Other wells dotted the landscape. Thirty years later a government test revealed that it still had a potential flow of 125,000 barrels a day.

Yates owned it all. He also owned it years before. The rich oil land was his during those days when he wondered where the next meal was coming from. He was a millionaire living in poverty. He owned a fortune, but had never claimed it.

The Christian has at his disposal everything he needs for spiritual vitality and growth. Peter said *“that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue”* (2 Peter 1:3).

The Apostle Paul echoes this truth when he wrote: *“and my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus,”* (Philippians 4:19).

Everything that has to do with spiritual life -- all our spiritual needs, are supplied. The *“riches of his glory”* is the reservoir from which we draw in strengthening the inward man (Ephesians 3:16).

What a spiritual reserve from which to draw!

Why then are so many struggling at the brink of spiritual disaster? Why drudgery rather than excitement? Many, like Yates, struggle with temptations and doubts, dreaming of unreached spiritual victories, never realizing their “oil well” lies behind them at the foot of the cross, and not ahead of some elusive spiritual rainbow.

The life of the Christian is to be a bold, victorious experience: a life that is to be marked by daring – not despair; faith – not doubt. *“We are more than conquerors through him that loved us,”* (Romans 8:37).

There is no reason for spiritual poverty. Through God’s grace, He has supplied rich spiritual reserves from which to draw.

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