

Living for Ideals

"*** make us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray."

WITHIN THE heart of every man there is a fairly well defined idea of the man he would want to be and the things he would want to accomplish. These ideas are ideals for which men struggle, some for their entire lives while others tire of the struggle, give up and begin to drift. The man who drifts is a menace to himself and society.

We may never reach the goal of all our ideals but if we were faithful and persistent, most of us would reach a conspicuous place on the ladder of fame.

Perhaps in the mental picture of ourselves as we would like to be, each of us sees a man who deserves the respect, esteem and confidence of the entire community. And yet there is scarce a day in which we do not commit some indiscreet act, indulge in some excess, neglect some opportunity for service that inevitably tends to lessen that respect, forfeit that esteem and abuse that confidence.

Fancy the picture of a happy home. Each one of us began early to dream of his or her own home and what it should be. Yet those of us who have attained a home are daily guilty of thoughtlessness, lack of consideration, careless words or ill-temper, which contributes to make the home atmosphere anything else than the home idyl we had pictured before we possessed it.

True ideals promote perfection and while it is realized that no human being can become perfect it is worth while to strive in that direction. Lack of honest efforts to approximate the ideal has no defense. The failure of our efforts may be deplored but the failure to make them cannot be sufficiently condemned.

What are ideals worth if we satisfy ourselves with contemplations and make no faithful endeavors to attain them?

This season offers an abundance of suggestions to renew our ideals. Why not ignite the spark that gave youth such glow and eagerness and go on our way once more filled with high aspirations?

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