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**THE SEARCHING HEART**  
**By Mrs. Paul E. King**

Daniel Stowe whistled while he walked home from school in the early darkness of a snow storm. He loved winter in New Haven. It was the most beautiful place, he felt, in which they had ever lived. The town was just the right "size," he thought, neither too large nor too small, and the school he attended wasn't filled with all the new, far-out, crazy, antiGod ideas. The teachers, for the most part at least, were church-attending, Bible-believing

teachers who still ascribed to and held up the views of morality and Biblical principles. This in itself was a real plus factor to Daniel.

He lifted his head now and let the fastly falling snow land on his forehead and face. How refreshing and invigorating those icy-cold flakes were! Oh, he loved the snow. Loved the town. Loved the people.

He straightened up suddenly as Zachary Taylor's face came before him. What was it about Zachary? Seemed like everywhere he Dan -- was, Zachary emerged. Sometimes he almost had the feeling Zach was following him. It was weird, to say the least.

If only he could strike up a conversation with the quiet appearing boy, Daniel thought. But try as he may, Zachary never said much more than "Yes, sir," or "No, sir," or "That's right." The conversation seemed lopsided, Dan mused, when there was no more response to an inquiry than Zachary's few responses were.

Zachary was a handsome young man, Daniel realized. Extremely handsome. And polite too. A good student. He didn't seem to have many friends, though. But to have friends, Daniel knew, one had to be friendly, and Zachary just didn't seem to know how to go about being friendly. Oh, he wasn't curt nor terse, to be sure; but neither did he seem to know how to communicate properly. At least not where his fellow classmates were concerned, it appeared.

Daniel was brought up short by his last thought. What did the Bible say about looking on the outward appearance? "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

"Forgive the very thought, dear Lord," Daniel prayed as he walked on. "You know Zachary's heart like I'll never know it nor see it. He may be completely different from the way things look and appear to be. And, who knows but Thou, my God, the reason for his seeming silence and muteness! Bless this newly-made friend of mine and please help me to prove to him that I am a friend who can be trusted. Thank You, kind Father."

Daniel felt better after he had prayed. It was as if he had just handed Zachary over to the Lord and entrusted him completely to His care and His wise understanding. For one thing, he was certainly thankful that the Lord

understood him -- Daniel -- and that He didn't cease to love him because he did some "stupid things" -- his sister's words -- which she couldn't understand. But he overlooked Ladonna; she was a girl, and she never would fully understand the whys and wherefores of a young man and his doings. But then, she had said the same thing to him regarding her sex.

It was funny, he thought now (as he reached down and grabbed a handful of snow), that Ladonna should feel the same way about him as he did about her and her gender. But it was also wonderful, he decided quickly, how God's Holy Spirit dwelling within the heart, kept the bond of unity and harmony and peace strongly intact until living under the same roof was not a burden or a trial but was a wondrously joyful thing.

Daniel walked through the open gate of their lawn then followed the sidewalk to the back porch and, putting his study books on top of a cupboard in the enclosed porch, he took the snow shovel down off the hook from which it hung and began shoveling the snow. Already, there seemed to be at least eight or nine inches down, and he had heard that there may be as high as 26 inches falling throughout the night. He would keep the sidewalks and porches and the driveway cleared off as much as possible so when his parents came home from the hospital and Ladonna from her part time job, it would be easy for them to get into the house without wading through the deep snow.

He whistled softly as he shoveled, feeling great to be a part of the beautiful world in which he lived. He tried to count his many blessings and got bogged down doing so: there was no way he could count them all; they were too numerous. Too many. God had been good to him beyond words, he realized as he shoveled. He had parents who loved him and also a sister who loved him. Christian parents whose talents and skills were being used to alleviate and lighten man's suffering and pain -- his father was a medical technician, his mother a nurse. There was love and unity and harmony in their home. What a priceless gift! he mused silently as happy tears crystallized into tiny ice balls then slid their shining way down his cheeks.

He lifted the shovel, loaded with snow, and was ready to drop it when, through his tears, he saw a familiar jacket and face. "Zachary!" he exclaimed with a smile. "How'd you get here?"

Zachary's lips parted in a shy smile. "Same way you did," he said, speaking softly. "I walked."

"Hey, I'm glad you're here. Do you want to go inside and have a cup of hot chocolate? It would taste good, I'm sure."

"No thanks, Daniel. You have work to do. Is there another shovel? I'll help you."

Daniel stood like one in shock. He'd never heard Zachary talk so much in all the time since he had met him a few months back. Smiling, he replied, "As a matter of fact, there is another shovel. Here, take this one; I'll get the other one off the porch. Dad and I are the chief shovelers around here. Mainly, I do it, since I'm always home long before Dad and Mother are. But Zachary, you don't need to help me. Just stay and talk to me."

"I can work and talk, Daniel. Thanks for the shovel," and he began shoveling with quick, steady and strong arms.

"Say, this is great of you, coming and helping me!" Daniel exclaimed cheerfully. "I certainly didn't expect anything quite so wonderful."

Shovel poised in midair, Zachary asked bluntly but candidly, "What makes you the way you are, Daniel? I mean, I've watched you when you didn't know I was watching you, and what I've observed has me baffled. Don't you ever get riled up? I've seen you under pressure when. . . ."

"Now, now Zachary," Daniel laughed, "don't give me the big head. I'm only a sinner saved by grace and filled with God's sweet Holy Spirit."

"Look Daniel, don't try to dissuade me from the reason I am here. I've seen that cocky Maynard Vennor try to make a fool out of you; heard him call you some pretty nasty sounding names, too. Please, I must know -- I must! -- what it is that holds you sweetly steady and keeps you kind and gentle and loving in spite of this kind of treatment. This is my reason for coming. What is your secret?"

Digging the shovel into a mound of snow and leaning on the handle, Daniel said, "I gave my heart and life to Jesus when I was ten years old, Zachary. I was born again that night, from above."

"I understand this. I was converted less than a year ago. But you can't imagine the struggle I sometimes have with my temper wanting to flare up. I run and pray and cry and ask God to help me, and to not allow me to bring a bad mark on His dear name through losing my temper and saying things I'll regret later on. He's always helped me. Always. But what if I blow it one of these days! Oh, Daniel, is it just because I'm German and Scotch that I have this struggle and this battle?"

Daniel smiled. Then he said, "No Zachary, that isn't the reason for your inner struggle and conflict: It is because of the carnal nature. Paul the Apostle calls it the 'old man.' You can't imagine how happy I am to know you are saved. This is wonderful. In becoming saved, or being converted, one is forgiven for all his committed sins. Your sins, and mine, were washed away in Jesus' precious blood which was shed at Calvary, when we were born again. This is called conversion-born again -- being saved. We were, and are, forgiven, as I said before. We no longer do the things we once did; nor do we go to the places we used to frequent. We are made new in Christ; old things have passed away and all things are become new, so states the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 5:17."

"That's what happened to me, Daniel. I never had anything so real or wonderful in all my life as when the Lord Jesus Christ forgave me of my sins and came into my heart. This salvation is oh, so glorious and real. But you..., well, in watching and observing you, I can see only what looks to me to be a calm, steady, even-flowing river without ever an undertow or a swell or, even, a ripple of any kind molesting or disturbing this quiet, gentle something in you and in your heart."

"This is called entire sanctification, Zachary. The inner struggle and conflict which you are presently experiencing is what the writer in Romans calls the carnal mind. . . ."

"Can I be free from this dreadful thing, Daniel? Please tell me, can I?" Zachary asked quickly, not allowing Daniel to finish his sentence.

"Indeed you can, my friend. It is God's will that you be sanctified wholly. I Thessalonians 4:3 states it clearly -- 'For this is the will of God, even your sanctification. . . .' And in the 7th verse of the same chapter, Paul says, 'For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.' Then in the 5th chapter and the 23rd and 24th verses, Paul says, 'And the very God of peace

sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

"Oh Daniel, will you please pray for me right now? I'll help you shovel everything after I'm filled with God's Holy Spirit. I feel I can't live unless my heart is freed from the struggle that goes on inside of me at times. I want the calm, peaceful riverlike experience I've seen manifested in you all the time and under any and all circumstance."

"There's nothing more important than praying, Zachary. Especially when someone is ready to yield and take God's way. Come, we'll go inside. The snow shoveling can wait." And Daniel led the way into the house where Zachary prayed until he was sanctified wholly and filled with the Holy Spirit.