

Letter: 5e 15 G v Wigram, -, 1833

by John Nelson Darby

John Nelson Darby's letter reflects on his spiritual journey, community awakening, and the challenges faced in ministry work in Ireland.

Scripture: Psalm 37:4, Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 12:12, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Philippians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 5:7

Topics: "Divine Guidance", "Spiritual Awakening"

Description

John Nelson Darby writes to G V Wigram, reflecting on his recent travels and the work of the Lord in Ireland. He shares about the spiritual awakening among the people, including readings with Roman Catholics and the formation of a new church body. Despite the challenges and fatigue he faces, Darby expresses gratitude for the blessings and the growth in affection and devotion among the believers. He emphasizes the importance of being led by the Lord, even when it leads to unexpected paths and difficulties. Darby concludes with a hopeful anticipation of reuniting with Wigram and the joy it will bring.

Transcript

p15 MY DEAR BROTHER [G V Wigram], - I was minded to write to you a good while, and thought I might have heard from you for I was working and travelling, so as to make my writing a matter of daily postponement. I should not have had to-day probably to do it, but that I missed the coach, which was to be my first regular stage in my journey towards Plymouth. I dare say - I may be sure it was all right, for indeed I was utterly knocked up; and it gave me an opportunity of visiting some here, whom I must otherwise have passed by. The Lord opened so unexpectedly a door, and gave me so far way here, as it made it difficult for me to leave it. However, I thought it best to postpone further work here till a subsequent opportunity, and I gave up Mayo for the present so as to be able to go to Plymouth. I shall start, please God, to-morrow morning on my way, though my way will be a little circuitous. I expect your happiness and state will give me great rest at Plymouth, for I do not doubt I shall be well glad of it by the time I reach there. I was fain to lie down on the rug today and go asleep, from mere fatigue.

The Lord has called several here, I think, to far more affectionate devotedness of heart than they were used to, and with this, blessing; we have had too, readings among the Roman Catholics, with very comfortable success, and some Protestants, who are working among the poor; but save this, generally the place was exceedingly dead. I trust many have been aroused since I have been here, and the Lord's coming looked for by many, and some brought to peace. We have also some very nice scripture reading

meetings, to which any of the clergy who hold the truth, have fallen in, though quite mixed, and every one at liberty to speak. It is chiefly, of course, on what may be called first principles, but I trust thorough ones practically. It is a remarkable circumstance, that a dear young lady, who was instrumental in setting them afloat for me, and at several members of whose family they were held - who had been only called about a year by the Lord, but was very decided ever since - was suddenly called away the other day in the midst of it all. The people in Limerick felt it a good deal, and I trust it may be the instrument of good to many. The whole family, which was a principal one here, had been all thoroughly worldly a year ago, and herself and her sister at the head of all idleness. A little church has been formed, or rather, body, like the one at Plymouth, for communion, and I think, though in great weakness, much blessed. On the whole, there is much to be thankful for here, and I think the germ of much greater good.

I meant to have written to you at that Powerscourt meeting, which took a very marked and decided character, and where evil and good came into great conflict, the Lord holding the reins, but I suppose - has told you all about it, and probably you have heard from Lady P. I feel as if I had lived two years since I came to Ireland, in the development of the Lord's work, and seeing that there is nothing, nothing else to live for. The Lord always gave me different work to do from what I lay out for myself almost, and puts me into positions I little seek. This meeting has done so here. I am not surprised at that. So the Lord be with me, I care not where He lead me. The greater the difficulty, the greater the honour and blessing too. I thought to have looked for a few sheep here and there, ministering the love of Christ to them. Perhaps I was not counted worthy of this, for surely it is a pleasanter work than being a man of contentions, with all these useless [discussions]* of truth; may others have a free course to run after - that is all.

Grace be with you, my dear brother. I add the less, and make the less inquiry, because I hope to see you all soon face to face, to my great gain, and to know so all about you.

Believe me, ever, dear Brother,

Most affectionately yours in the Lord,

[1833.]

{*Copy defective}

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