

Still It Purifies

A student once went for advice to a pious old man, and said to him:

“Sir , I love much to hear about God and spiritual things,
but all the good I hear seems to go in at one ear, and out at other.
I forget it so soon; and it grieves me.”

Then the old Father said;
My son, take this basket, and bring in to me full of water.”

The student obeyed; he took the basket and went to a wide brook,
and worked hard for a long time, but he could get no water to stay in the basket;
as soon as it was full, it came empty again.

At last he got tired, for he saw that all his labour was in vain;
true it is, indeed, that no water had remained in the basket,
but it had washed it clean and pure.

“So it is with you, and with every one
who hears and reads God's word with diligence and prayer;
he may not retain everything, but still it purifies his mind,
and makes him more fit for heaven.”

Author unknown