

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT.

By Rev. H. C. Archer.

Be ye also enlarged, 2 Cor., 6-13:

There are some things that are unchangeable. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The Bible doesn't change. It needs no revision to make it up to date. God's fixed laws are always the same. The promise can be depended upon which He made in Gen. 8:22, "While the earth remaineth seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." But with most of things there is much change. This is especially true of man the greatest of God's creatures. Man is a three-fold being, consisting of spirit, soul and body, the outward and inward man. These are subject to change. The apostle inward man is renewed day by day."

The spiritual life should always be on the increase. It is this thought no doubt which the apostle had in mind in this chapter, for in 11th verse he says, "Our heart is enlarged." We see here:

(1) The possibility of enlargement. Every Christian can be enlarged. Regeneration gives us life, while sanctification gives us purity. We cannot grow into either of these experiences. The admonition is to "grow in grace," not into it.

There is a growth in grace after one is converted, but how often is that growth retarded by inward hinderances. But when one is sanctified, the heart is cleansed, these hinderances are all removed and the individual is then in a position to grow and enlarge as God intends them to. Some seem to think that when one is sanctified wholly, there will be no more growth, but this is not so, purity is not maturity.

The command given to the children of Israel was, "Go ye and possess the land." Then "I will enlarge thy borders," and also to Joshua, "Every place that your foot shall tread upon that have I given unto you." David says, "Our steps are enlarged," and here Paul says, "Be also enlarged."

Yes the Christian life can be enlarged. It



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can be heightened and deepened, lengthened and broadened. This is the privilege of every child of God. The sanctified soul as well as the justified, in fact the person who is sanctified is just in a position to grow, as this is the normal Christian experience.

(2) The necessity of enlargement. The Christian must either enlarge or contract. He must either grow in grace, or wither and fade and at last die. The Christian life admits of no standing still. It is advance or stop.

This is a truth admitted by all, and yet one not seriously considered by many. We say we believe it, but do we? Would it not cut many of us off? How many of us are advancing in Christian experience as we should? How much have we grown in the past year? Are we enlarging daily in spiritual things?

Do we believe this, the necessity of enlargement in Christian experience? It is grow or die. Here is the secret of much of the coldness and deadness even in some Holiness churches. You can read the epitaph written on many a walking tomb stone, "A name that thou livest and art dead, died because they failed to grow. There was no enlargement or expansion in Christian experience. It means much more to retain the experience of sanctification than to receive it.

Mr. Wesley said, "hardly one in three does this." We get into the experience, and then settle down and expect no enlargement or development along this line, we have reached the climax. Saved and sanctified. This is only the beginning. What outpourings and infillings and regirdings, what heights and depths we are yet to know. "Eye hath not seen or ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit."

But alas how many settle down and here they stand like Lot's wife, dead because they failed to go on; but looked back. These are seen in every congregation, they are always telling what great times they used to have, especially when they first received this great experience; but here they stand looking back to

better days. They have not gone on in Christian experience, have not enlarged, in fact are not where they once were.

What will this class do in the light of this text, and with this truth, the necessity of enlargement.

(3) The manner of this enlargement. How does it take place, in what way are we to enlarge? All spiritual development comes through walking in the light, and making use of the means of grace.

"Then shall ye know if ye follow on to know the Lord." To him that hath, shall be given and he shall have abundance." We are to enlarge all the Christian graces or fruits of the Spirit.

Read Gal. 5, 22:23. I will only refer to two of these:

(1) Faith—We should enlarge daily in faith. We can always get more faith, and it is always safe to pray, "Lord increase our faith." A feeble faith may remove mole hills, but if we are to remove the mountains of difficulty we must have strong faith. How often we fail for lack of faith. Look about us today in our own lives, in Christian work, why are we not enjoying more of the blessing of God, and meeting with greater success. "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." "According to your faith, be it unto you." How few realize what faith is. Faith is more than a belief or mental assent to divine truth, more than a deep emotion in the heart that causes one to feel good; it is a good living union between the soul of man and the omnipotent God. Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in me The closer your connection with God the stronger your faith and the more it will grow. and I in him." Faith in God makes that union.

Nothing will grow so fast as faith if the conditions are met. With an increase of faith will come increased vigor and strength for service. When a person is in a low state physically they are liable to contract most any disease. It is the weak spiritual life which becomes a prey to doubts and fears and temptations. One only hope is to keep where our spiritual life is abounding. It is the ebb tide that leaves things stranded upon the shore, the flood tide that floats them off. It is those who have not enlarged in faith who so easily get sidetracked. The sanctified soul, growing in grace never runs into an open switch. It is the slow ship which receives the enemies torpedo, while the swiftly moving one escapes. Let us heed the warning, and keep going full speed ahead.

With an increase of faith will come:

(A) Increased vigor—

When a person is in a low state—

C Also with increased faith and vigor there will be

(B) Increased strength for service. No person can enlarge in their faith without enlarging in our activities. As faith grows so