

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.

VOL. XXXIII.

MONCTON, N. B., MARCH. 31, 1921.

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Selections from Rev. Chas. G. Phinney's "Lectures on Revivals."

WHAT IS A REVIVAL?

A revival is a purely philosophical result of the right use of constituted means. It is not a miracle, nor dependent upon a miracle. There has long been an idea prevalent that promoting religion has something very peculiar in it, not to be judged by the ordinary rules of cause and effect. No doctrine is more dangerous than this to the prosperity of the Church. Suppose a man were to go and preach this doctrine among farmers, about their sowing grain. Let him tell them that God is a sovereign and will give them a crop only when it pleases Him, and that for them to plough, and plant, and labour, as if they expected to raise a crop, is very wrong, and taking the work out of the hands of God. And suppose the farmers should believe such doctrine. Why, they would starve the world to death. Just such results would follow the Churches' being persuaded that promoting religion is somehow so mysterious a subject of Divine sovereignty, that there is no natural connection between the means and the end. I fully believe, that could facts be known, it would be found that when the appointed means have been rightly used, spirited blessings have been obtained with greater uniformity than temporal ones.

A revival consists in the return of the Church from her backslidings, and in the conversion of sinners. A revival always includes conviction of sin on the part of the Church. It is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God. Christians will have their faith renewed. They will be filled with a tender and burning love for souls. A revival breaks the power of the world and of sin awakened and reformed, the salvation of sinners will follow, going through the same stages of conviction, repentance, and reformation.

If Christians are full of the Spirit of God, sinners read it. An individual once went into a manufactory to see the machinery. His mind was solemn, as he had been where there was a revival. The people who labored there all knew him by sight, and knew who he was. A young lady who was at work saw him, and whispered some foolish remark to her com-

panion and laughed. The person stopped, and looked at her with a feeling of grief. She stopped, her thread broke, and she was so much agitated that she could not join it. At length she sat down overcome with her feelings. The person then approached and spoke with her; she soon manifested a deep sense of sin. The feeling spread through the establishment like fire, and in a few hours almost every person employed there was under conviction; so much so, that the owners, though worldly men, were astounded, and requested to have the works stopped and have a prayer-meeting; for they said it was a great deal more important to have these people converted than to have the works go on. And in a few days, the owners and nearly every person employed in the establishment were hopefully converted. If Christians have deep feelings on the subject of religion themselves, they will produce deep feeling wherever they go. And if they are cold, or light and trifling, they inevitably destroy all deep feeling.

WHEN A REVIVAL IS NEEDED.

1. **When there is a want of brotherly love.** When there are dissensions, and jealousies, and evil speakings among Christians, then there is a great need of a revival. These things show that Christians have got far from God. Religion cannot prosper with such things in the Church, and nothing can put an end to them like a revival.

2. **When there is a worldly spirit in the Church.** It is manifest that the Church is sunk down to a low state, when you see Christians conform to the world.

3. **When the Church finds its members falling into gross sins,** then it is time for the Church to awake and cry to God.

4. **When the wicked triumph over the Church and revile Christians.**

5. **When sinners are careless and unconcerned,** it is time the Church should bestir itself. It is as much the duty of the Church to awake, as it is for the firemen to awake when a fire breaks out at night in a great city. Sleep! Should the firemen sleep, and let the whole city burn down?

What would be thought of such firemen? And yet their guilt would not compare with the guilt of Christians who sleep.

WHEN A REVIVAL MAY BE EXPECTED.

1. **When the wickedness of the wicked grieves, humbles and distresses Christians.** Sometimes Christians do not seem to mind anything about the wickedness around them. Or if they talk about it, it is in a cold, and calloused and unfeeling way, as if they despaired of a reformation.

If Christians will only be humbled and pray, they shall soon see God's naked arm in a revival of religion.

2. A revival may be expected **when Christians have a spirit of prayer for a revival.** That is, when they pray as if their hearts were set upon a revival. Sometimes Christians are not engaged in prayer for a **revival**, not even when they are warm in prayer. Their minds are upon something else; and not for a revival among themselves. But when they feel the want of a revival, they pray for it as if they could not be denied. Deep, continual, earnest desire for the salvation of sinners, is what constitutes the spirit of prayer for a revival. When this feeling exists in the Church, unless the Spirit is grieved away by sin, there will infallibly be a revival. Sometimes ministers have had this distress about their congregations, so that they felt as if they could not live unless they could see a revival. Sometimes private members of the Church, men and women, have the spirit of prayer for a revival of religion, so that they will hold on and prevail with God, till He pours out His Spirit. The first ray of light that broke in upon the midnight which rested on the Churches in Oneida county, in 1825, was from a woman in feeble health, who, I believe, had never been in a powerful revival. Her soul was exercised about sinners. She was in an agony for the land, she kept praying more and more. At length she became full of joy, and exclaimed, 'God has come! God has come! There is no mistake about it, the work is begun, and is going all over the

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