

We read of a class who are ever learning yet never coming to a knowledge of the truth, however orthodox. "There are those who say they are Jews and are not." (c) Not merely subscribing to a church creed. (d) Not a mere process of reasoning from the premises, "sinner," "saviour," as the deluded Romanist does in a religious institution and hiding in the convolutions of a syllogism, as where death reigns instead of life.

2. Positively: Choosing Him as both Saviour and Lord. The consent of the will to the assent of the intellect. A vital process, the power of truly believing is begotten in the heart by the Holy Spirit. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Joseph Parker calls such, the supreme miracle, the mount of transfiguration, the going over from self to God. This brings man face to face with God without the manipulation of priest and sacrament.

II. Some of the Results of Believing.

1. Repentance. Godly sorrow (which includes **Confession, Restitution, Forsaking all sin**) is only found at the foot of the cross. "Him hath God exalted to be a Prince and Saviour to grant repentance to Israel." "Then shall we remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations."

2. A justified state. "Wherefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God."

3. A regenerated state. Passes 'from death to life.' "And you hath he quickened." "Being born again by incorruptible seed, by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever." Such faith reveals the fountain of life, which in the early centuries had been plugged up by popes, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, the virgin Mary, saints, holy water, sacraments, beads, candles, relics, indulgences, penance, auricular confessions, meritorious works, traditions, sophisms, etc.

4. Good works will follow; the tree being made good. We are "created unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them."

5. Heart purity. "If we walk in the light. . . the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all unrighteousness."

6. Power. "Ye shall receive power, the Holy Ghost coming upon you."

7. Overcoming the world. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." "Who is he that overcometh the world but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."

8. Victory over death, and the resurrection of the body. "When this mortal shall have put on immortality then shall come to pass the saying, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

And thus we shall ever be with the Lord, and gaze with rapture upon the face of Him who bought us with his precious blood, and glorify Him while the cycles of eternity roll on.

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER.

Lucy W. Green

Things worth having, even in this

world, costs a struggle; how much more the eternal things of God. Heaven is ours with all its riches and joy, in answer to prayer, the prayer of faith. How great are our privileges, even in this life, that God hath provided? He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Many ask once with scarcely a grain of faith or atom of trust, apparently desiring to have, but not expecting to receive that for which they pray. Often it is childlike confidence or simplicity that is needed right here. Dear reader, we must believe God will do according to His promise or else is of no avail. Satan is very persistent in his efforts to destroy; he is at it, and always at it, expecting to destroy and to win the case. If prayer is not answered at once, don't give it up, but ask again and then again if need be, believing all the time, for it is while believing that we are receiving. Well, Amen.

Never doubt once for a moment, for he that doubteth, or "wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord." (Jas. 1:6, 7). It is not only because of our persistence in asking, but because of its being mixed with faith. Remember that whatever warrant you have for praying, you have the same warrant to believe they will be answered! God does not always answer immediately. He may wish to teach us patience. This tries our faith but it works patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. Hope is an anchor to the soul. God will surely answer. Pray again and again if it need be, but believing all the time, for it is while believing we are receiving. "We build the ladder by which we rise, from the lowly earth to the vaulted skies, and we rise to its summit round by round." That is, rising by steps of obedience and faith. Obedience is one of the doorways of faith.

It is for victory over sin? Is it for cleansing? Is it for healing? Is it for temporal supplies? Or is it for a revival of pure and undefiled religion? Whatever warrant to believe your prayers will be answered. Anything you have the Word of God for will be given. Oh, that people would believe God and act accordingly. Not a word He hath spoken, was ever yet broken.—In Wes. Meth.

A GOD-GIVEN REVIVAL.

A Holy Ghost revival means a fresh inflow of spiritual life, sanctifying believers, building up the saints, reclaiming back-sliders, convicting and saving the lost. The great loving heart of God is yearning over the people. He is waiting to send a revival. He has unlimited resources. "The river of God is full of water;" its fullness and power are undiminished. Why does it tarry? Is there not a cause?

First. A God-given revival is a costly thing. It will cost far more than money. It will cost time, and the people are too busy. It will cost self-denial, and the majority are not prepared to deny self.

It will cost heart-searchings, and to search the heart is a very unpleasant business. It will cost fasting, but in these easy-going days feasting is preferable. How many ministers and people really desire a revival bad enough to be willing to pay the price?

Second. A God-given revival comes in answer to importunate prayer. Pentecost was preceded by ten days of prayer. The revivals in Wales and Korea were characterized by mighty prayer meetings. There must be a calling upon God; there must be weepings between the porch and the altar. "Spare thy people, O Lord!" must be the burden of our cry, Jehovah, speaking through Ezekiel, declared, "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them." Mr. Wesley said that, in the realms of Grace God never does anything but in answer to prayer. I have known the Koreans to pray one hundred days for a revival. No wonder that the Holy Ghost comes in power among them!

Third. There must be a three-fold agency in a God-given revival. First, there must be a man of God, not necessarily a brilliant scholar. God has had to go to the mountains of Tekoa and to the fishermen of Galilee, as well as to the school of Gamaliel, to find men whom He could use. The man must be a chosen vessel, saved from pride, and self-will, and free from the love of money, and a happy possessor of the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire; a man who will walk humbly with God, not elated at success, and not discouraged when the battle is hard and long. He must be no trimmer, but courageous and valiant for the truth, declaring the whole counsel of God, without fear or favor. He is a messenger of God to the people.

The second agency in a God-given revival is the Word of God. It is not great sermons that turn men from darkness to light, not well-rounded sentences and fine quotations from the poets and the novel writers. This is no time for whisy-washy sermonettes. The Word of God must be preached; it will cut like a two-edged sword, and break in pieces the hardest heart. Such topics are: Repentance, Restitution, The Cross of Calvary, Heaven and Hell, must be preached; and Regeneration and Holiness must be kept always to the front. God will honor His Word as a saving power.

The third agency in a God-given revival is the Holy Ghost. All other preparations will go for nought, if He is not present. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord." Everything will be as dry and barren as a wilderness until the Holy Ghost is poured upon us from on high. There is no substitute for the holy anointing oil. There is a softening, melting unction when He is present to command. Man-made programs go to the four winds of heaven when the Holy Ghost is in full charge. There will be results. Fearfulness will take hold of the hypocrites; backsliders will become afraid, and sinners will get a vision of their lost condition; the saints will groan and travail; victories will be won for Christ, and shouts and praises will be heard in the Camp.—Rev. John Thomas, in *The Revivalist*.