

## A BALL AND A PRAYER MEETING.

My friend, Mrs. T., the Quaker evangelist, and I were talking of the wonders of faith as recorded in God's Word, and also of the faith of Christian workers, and she gave me this personal recital.

I had been laboring in Rochester and Buffalo and being very weary, decided to rest and visit my kinswoman, Mrs. Elizabeth M., whose home was on the Lake twelve miles away.

When almost there I passed a house of worship, and immediately my heart was filled with a desire to preach in it, and I prayed the Lord to open the way and give me souls for my hire. I then felt the peace of assurance that He would answer my request.

My friend gave me a most joyful welcome, although she had several of the neighbors sitting with her knitting, and spending the afternoon in an easy, old-fashioned way. Elizabeth was a rare Christian, and we had ever been very dear to each other.

The kindly neighbors were inclined to converse, and we were soon acquainted; I felt it providential that they were there, as I could learn of the situation of the people whom I longed to reach. I found that the church I had passed belonged to the Methodists, and that I could have it for a series of meetings.

Another lady informed me that the Methodists had a revival four months before, but she did not think much of the depth of the work of grace, as young Edwin L., one of the most promising of the twenty, who had joined the church, had backslidden and was going to the ball the next night.

"So I heard," said a third lady, "and more than all that, he is one of the managers."

"I think this starting for the Kingdom and looking back is fearful," said the first lady.

"Thee must not criticise God's work of a revival because it stirs up the enemy to mar the work," I said.

"Edwin L. has not joined the Methodist Church to my certain knowledge," added my sweet friend, Elizabeth. "It is against their rules. A convert must be on probation six months, and it is only four since his conversion. But, of course, the ball room is no place for one of Christ's little ones."

As the conversation went on, I became absorbed in my own thoughts. There was to be a ball, and one who had given his heart to Christ was going. What could I do? As the day passed, I continually lifted my heart to God for guidance.

At length when the company had gone, light came to me, and I saw clearly what I was to do, and I said to my hostess' son, a young man of twenty-five, "John, will thee go to the ball with me tonight?"

He was horrified at my question, and made no reply for a moment, then said: "Go to the ball with thee! I never went to a ball in my life!"

"Of course thee never went. But I am terribly in earnest in going to this," I replied.

"Thee must have some good reason.

I will go with thee to the door," he said.

I then asked Elizabeth to accompany me to the ball, and perceiving my purpose she consented to go.

The ball was to be at the hotel in the vicinity, and arriving early, saw the landlord, and asked him if he would object to my turning the ball into a prayer meeting that evening.

"I have no objections whatever," he replied, "if you can carry it through!" and there the matter rested.

Not long after eighteen young ladies came into the parlor where I was sitting. They were pictures of health and beauty, and I could not help loving them.

They thought me a traveler, and as I commenced talking with one of them, the Lord gave me a favor in their eyes, until one after another drew their chairs around me, until I was the center of a group of eighteen young ladies, all intently listening to my words.

As the eighteen young gentlemen came in, they drew chairs, each near his partner, and all gave me their attention.

After a while the landlord and the fiddler made their appearance, but did not interrupt me; the latter seemed uneasy, but the landlord was on my side, and quieted him by paying him the same sum he should have received for playing.

I had in my calling been a great traveler, and had a vast fund of anecdote and story from which I fully believe the Lord guided me to make selection.

Time sped on until about ten o'clock and not one word said about a meeting. Looking at my watch I was surprised at the lateness of the hour, and remarked, "We have had a pleasant evening!"

"Yes, yes!" said one another, "we have been delighted."

"Now, before we separate," I said, "wouldn't it be a good plan to read a chapter in the Bible?" and singling out Edwin L., for early in the evening I was sure of his identity, I asked him to read our dear Saviour's last prayer, as found in the 17th Chapter of the Gospel of John. Edwin colored, hesitated, had a cold, and wished to be excused. And each one to whom the book was passed had an excuse.

I then read a chapter, adding a few words, and prayed as I had never prayed before, all joining me in kneeling. The Lord gave His Spirit, and when I ceased, many were sobbing as if their hearts would break. Edwin L., all broken down, offered a few petitions from a contrite heart. Others followed, and most of those present, overwhelmed with a view of their sins, were pointed to the Lamb of God. Through the grace of God the ball had become a prayer-meeting of wonderful power.

In taking leave, I mentioned the meeting the next evening in the Methodist Church, and invited all present to come and bring their friends. And this was the beginning of a revival in which something like a hundred souls in that small place found Christ. Faith in God was honored, and so will it be with the Christian worker. For all that are of faith, shall, while witnessing for Christ, be kept from evil—unspotted from the world, and bring many sheaves to His glory in the great harvest.—The Christian.

## ESTABLISHING FAITH IN SCRIPTURE.

I believe the most important item in the education of young people is that instruction which will establish their faith in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. This, well done, we may hope for every good thing to follow.

Unbelief in Bible truth makes an impassable gulf between the soul and God. Belief bridges this gulf and brings the soul into salvation and fellowship with its Maker. The supreme object of Satan and his emissaries is to lead the mind of the young into a state of unbelief; this means to destroy the fear of God and reverence for God. This produces in the soul a state of rebellion against the high standards of conduct set up in the Holy Scriptures, and breaks away all restraint and leaves the soul at the mercy of the deceiver, who has no mercy.

Fix in the minds of the young a firm faith in the inspiration of the Bible, and you have planted the seeds of reverence in that soul; you have laid the foundation upon which to build good character. Belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures leads to a wholesome fear of God and this leads to carefulness in one's conduct and a consciousness of responsibility. This fixes in the mind an attitude of generosity and kindly helpfulness toward one's fellow-being. Faith in the Scriptures, and the fear of God fixes in the mind a purpose to be honest, truthful, virtuous.

Infidelity lifts the floodgates for the inflow of all manner of wickedness. It produces a state of reckless indifference and selfish indulgence in the minds of those who cast away the great moral laws contained in the Scriptures for the proper adjustment of the mind and conduct toward the Divine Creator and toward one's fellow-being.

If the schools of the land destroy the faith of the rising generation, they will produce a generation of irreverent, selfish, lawless sinners. On the other hand, if the rising generation is trained to believe the Bible, to trust in the Christ of the Bible for salvation, to revere the God of the Bible and remember that there is a day of judgment when we must face the records we have made, this will produce in the young mind a state of holy fear, of reverence, of respect for law, the laws made by men as well as the laws written in the Holy Bible.

If we desire a reverential, industrious generation of men and women who will fear God and keep His commandments, observe the proprieties of life, be industrious and economical, build up society and bring prosperity and blessing to the people, we must instruct that generation carefully in the great truths of the Holy Scriptures, bringing it to see its responsibility, the sacredness of the law, claims of society, to realize the presence of God, and you need not be uneasy for the future. "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." Give us a generation of young people who fear God and keep His commandments, and the safety and prosperity of the people are secured.—Pentecostal Herald.