

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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NO.

Do We Need a Revival? How May It Come?

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Do we need a revival? It hardly seems necessary to ask the question. The great mass of the professed Church of Christ today has, either consciously or unconsciously, forsaken "the fountain of living waters" and is quenching its thirst with the poisonous draught of Modernism; while over the smaller portion, which still holds to the truth and remains orthodox, is slowly but surely creeping a lethargy which renders it largely insensible to the mighty responsibility entrusted to it by its great Head.

In the social realm a corresponding laxity is seen; morals are falling below the standard; crime and lawlessness are showing an alarming increase; extravagance and self-indulgence have become general, until few know the meaning of old-time prudence and economy; sporting and Sabbath-breaking have well-nigh emptied the churches, while on the part of the multitude is a general indifference to the things of God and to the eternal welfare of their souls. The prince of the power of the air is sending souls almost unhindered in a mad rush hellward.

Is the church of the living God blind to this disastrous condition of affairs? Will she continue to sit with folded hands while the cause of Christ languishes and immortal souls are swept into the torment of an eternity without God? Listen to the awful knell sounding from the skies upon an ease-loving church "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." Are we as individuals guilty of this sin of being at ease and unburdened while those for whom Christ died rush on to sure and endless death? Am I my brother's keeper? Am I free from the blood of souls? Can I say with Paul, "I am free from the blood of all men," or shall God say to me: "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto thee from the ground?" Not because, like Cain I have slain my brother, but because I have not prevailed with God until a mighty cyclone of Holy Ghost power has been let loose in which the Holy Spirit convicted men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

Is there no remedy? Yes. Careful and minute directions are laid down in the Word dealing with this very condition. Through the prophet Joel, God outlines awful judgments about to fall upon the land, then in His mercy He exhorts: "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with

mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thy heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them; wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Joel 2:12-17. It is a call from God to Zion (the church) to humble herself, old and young, great and small, priest and people, to pray with fasting and with weeping until she shall prevail with God. Then God gives this gracious promise of blessing, vs. 18, 19, "Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith, and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen." "Corn, and wine, and oil" spoken of in this verse is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. All down through this wonderful chapter God gives glimpses of the gracious results of the prevailing prayers of his people. Verse 21, "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice; for the Lord will do great things. Verse 24, "And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." "Wheat," harvest—souls.

What are the conditions of prevailing prayer?

I. **A heart that is right with God.** "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Ps. 66:18. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God, and whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I. John 3:21-22.

II. **That we ask according to the will of God.** "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And

if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." I. John 5:14-15.

III. **Faith.** "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

IV. **Importunity.** "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1. "And I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:8-9. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matt. 11:12.

God promises to honor united prayer. "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father, which is in heaven." Matt. 18:19. One hundred and twenty hungry, seeking souls on their knees before God for ten days shook the power of the unseen world, received the promise of the Father, and inaugurated the mightiest revival the world has ever known. The church on her knees delivered Peter from prison and from death. "But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5. Believing prayer is a mighty, potent force going from the heart to the throne of God, unleashing untold resources of power which operate against the opposing forces of darkness, wrecking Satan's kingdom, and bringing to pass the object of the petition sought. Dan. 10:4-14.

Oh, that we might see our need, our privilege, and our great opportunity! Our churches and the country at large are in need of a revival, not the sickly kind that brings to the birth and has not strength to bring forth, but a revival born of prayer the mighty, persistent, prevailing heart-cry of the men and women of God, who will not let them go except he bless them; until, in answer to their importunity, the very atmosphere is vibrant with the presence of the Holy Ghost and the Spirit of God.

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