

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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CONVICTION!

Conviction is more than convincement. Convincement is a mental work, but conviction is a conscience work. The minister can, and often does convince the minds of men, and they have to acknowledge the truthfulness of the doctrines that are now presented, and that a life of righteousness is the only life for one to live to meet the approval of God, and men, but at the same time will press on in a life of sin, and rebellion against God, and even, their better judgment. Conviction is the work of the Spirit, and troubles the conscience, and produces a godly sorrow for sin, that if followed up will lead to Bible repentance, and salvation from all sin. The Holy Spirit alone can convict of sin of righteousness, and of judgment. Many times the minister of the gospel makes a very serious mistake in passing judgment upon sinners, and unsanctified believers, and will put them under the sentence of eternal death, all because they have given them Bible messages from the Lord, and they would not repent, or get sanctified, they assume the authority to say, because I have given them the light, and that they refused to walk in the light, or to let the Lord have His way, that they have grieved the Spirit, and are past redemption, and it may be that the Lord had not shown them by the Spirit their soul condition. I recall that one time I was holding a meeting in a holiness church, and a man who had been a member of that church, and who had sat under numbers of the best evangelists, and some of the best pastors the church had for seven years, but had not made any effort to get sanctified, yet he was one of the most faithful members in attendance, and in supporting the church work. The good pastor remarked to me in the beginning of the meeting that he was so troubled about this man, in that he was a light rejecter, and would make no attempt to seek holiness, many thought that he was stubborn on holiness lines. I said well, my brother, we will hold steady, and pray for him, and expect him to get sanctified in this meeting. It was on the second Sunday morning while I was preaching on sanctification by the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and the necessity of holiness in order to get into heaven, that just one sentence that was uttered, gave him the light needed, and he was the first one to start to the altar, and in five minutes received the Holy Spirit.

After a time of rejoicing, when all was calm, this brother gave his testimony, saying, for seven years I have been willing to walk in the light,

and get sanctified, but today is the first time that the Holy Spirit has revealed my heart to me, and made me see the carnal mind in its enmity against God, and I went to the altar on the first light God gave me, and I consecrated all to Him, and he gave me the Holy Spirit in its fulness. As ministers of the gospel, we must remember how long we were getting the light on holiness, and how slow we were to act, or we will unrighteously condemn some honest soul to despair, or at least offend some innocent soul. We may by a philosophical argument convince the mind, but it takes the Spirit to convict the soul. Genuine conviction begotten by the Holy Spirit applying the Word, brings the soul into a state of wretchedness, sorrow and agony, that is all but pleasant it wrings anguish out of the heart, and not only is one willing to make restitution and personal confession where they need to make it, but they are glad for the opportunity to make it, and will on the first opportunity presenting itself. When one is not able to make restitution in part or in full, nor to know where those are to whom he should make personal confession of some injury done them, or some falsehood told to them, the Lord will take the will for the deed and forgive their sins, and give them grace to help them to make good on the first opportunity, and then if one does not make good, they will forfeit their right to continued pardon, and will go back into the world. Getting right with God is no "child's play," nor is it a very pleasant thing to do. It takes will-power and help from God to do it. I am not a pessimist, but there is but little old-time Holy Ghost conviction brought on by the preaching of the word of God these days; emotionalism, sentimentalism, human zeal, and the use of psychology is moving people in these great gatherings to come forward to seek pardon. It is a seldom thing that people are moved to seek the Lord in small crowds, and it is a hard undertaking to get those who move large numbers to preach to small crowds. I should like to see a revival of Holy Ghost conviction where people are moved to seek God in genuine repentance with tears, whether the crowds are large or small.

The genuineness of the conviction in any meeting determines the duration of the work done, if it is convincement, emotionalism and sentiment that stirs people, and the forward movement is the result of psychological effort on the part of the evangelist, or preacher, the work will be of short duration, because it is only surface work; but if the forward move on the part of the people is the result of Holy Ghost con-

viction, and if they repent to the rock bottom, or get sanctified by the baptism with the Holy Ghost, getting the old man crucified, the duration of the work will be eternal, because it is a deep inner work of God in the soul. My fellow-Christians, there is a great difference between convincement and conviction; and shall we be satisfied with the former which will never bring eternal fruitage? We cry back to old time Bible conviction by the application made by the Holy Ghost, and to a genuine work, rather than a big work.

Yours in the love of Jesus,

—J. B. M.

"PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING."

Heb. 1:10 and 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; Col. 1:23-24; Phil. 2:17; 2 Cor. 12:15. Luke 6:40.

"Perfect through suffering," and this for what?

That when made perfect thou shouldst pass away and be at rest?

Nay, child of God! 'twas not designed for that;

For in that course thou wouldst not, nor could others be made blest.

The Father wills that thou shouldst thus become

A minister of Christ, your Head, to those whom now you love

For their salvation, and with joy bring home Those sheep and lambs, for whom He bled, to His blest fold above.

In all thy sufferings, which are for them, joy!

That yet behind of Christ's afflictions in thy flesh, fill up;

Thus shall they with thee, through Him, less alloy,

Together with Him in His kingdom drink of joy—His cup

The sacrifice and service of their faith, If as drink-offering thou shouldst be poured forth upon,

Joy and rejoice with them: for, lo, He saith: "His ransomed shall to Zion come with endless joy their heads upon!"

Then gladly spend and still be spent for them,

Though more abundant love at present less receives:

Thy sobs with theirs in New Jerusalem; There with them, with thy Lord thou'lt come, who still His word believes.

A. W. COLES