

A PASSION FOR SOULS

While Jesus was on earth He said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how am I straitened till it be accomplished." In one place the word "straitened" is translated "taken as with a fever." Jesus had a passion to do the will of His Father. He said "I do always those things that are pleasing in thy sight." "Lo, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I come to do thy will O God." The will of the Father was that He should be the Lamb to take away the sin of the world. The Father ordained from the foundation of the earth, that He should provide a free and a full salvation for the entire human race. He did this at Calvary.

Since we are living in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, we the sons of God, may be baptized with the Spirit, and thus be possessed with a feverish, passionate desire to do the will of our Heavenly Father. It is the will of our Father that, after having experienced His free and full salvation, all should make known to the world this wondrous salvation that has been provided for perishing mankind. The final mandate given the disciples by the risen Lord was "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16: 15) "And He said unto them thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses to these things." (Luke 24: 46-48). To witness for Jesus at home and unto the uttermost parts should be the all-consuming passion of our lives. We should have this as the principal aim in life.

So many treat the question of foreign evangelism indifferently. They talk and act as though it made little difference with them whether they took any part in helping to give the gospel to the unevangelized world or not. We must not forget that the same Lord who said "And ye shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria" also said "And unto the uttermost parts of the earth." If the first part of the command is binding upon a Christian, surely there is no law of logic by which it can be proven the second part of the Commission is not. This great Commission stands or falls together. The great objective is to get the gospel message out to men, beginning at home and extending the lines of activity until the great objective is reached, which is the regions beyond.

The Apostle Paul was possessed with such a passion for souls that he went on long perilous journeys on land and sea to reach the unevangelized Gentile nations. He counted not his life dear unto himself that he might finish the ministry to which he was appointed. Other Spirit-filled disciples have felt the same. In the thirteenth century, the first missionary to the Moslems, Raymond Lull, went to North Africa. For forty-six years he labored there. He was cursed, stoned, and treated shamefully. Again and again he was driven out, but again and again he returned. After forty-six years of labor, he was finally dragged to the city gate, and there stoned to death. He had a passionate desire to give the light of the gospel to those in darkness, and because he poured out his life in this ministry he will wear a martyr's crown.

It is reported that a missionary in China ten years ago had one chapel, one evangelist, and thirty-two Christians. Today he has forty-six chapels, thirty-six native evangelists, and twelve hundred and forty baptized Christians. The secret of his success was mainly due to the time spent in prayer. His feverish passion for souls

led to a life of sacrifice. It is this passionate love for souls that makes it necessary and easy for the missionaries serving under our Board to leave loved ones and native land to go yonder to help publish the glad tidings. The same Lord that called and commissioned them calls us as His disciples to support their activities with our prayers and with our funds. Our passion for souls should make such service easy; for are we not bond servants of love unto our Lord?

As we send our workers forth, we should pray earnestly for their preservation and success. They go to live and labor in deadly climates. Some of our workers are now in poor health. Pray for them. The great Physician is able to restore to normal health. They face hostile forces and starving multitudes. Pray for their deliverance from the powers of darkness, and give from your abundance to their support. The Roman Catholic church is offering stubborn resistance to the progress of our work in Western India. Pray that the power of Rome may be broken and that these helpless, fettered souls may be emancipated by the glorious gospel.

"Setting before my inward open vision,
Millions of faces crowded up to view;
Sad eyes that said, 'For us is not provision;
Give us thy Saviour, too.

"Give us,' they cried, 'your cup of consolation
Never to our out-reached hands 'tis passed.
We long for the desire of every nation
And oh, we die so fast!"

—E. F. McCarty, in *The Wesleyan Methodist*

WHAT A VISITOR DID

Recently a young student taking a vacation trip in Scotland saw in the country near Glasgow a man of thirty who had been blind all his life. The blind man had never been educated. He worked a little in the fields or in his own home as best he could, but his life in the main was sad and helpless.

The young student had some small knowledge of medicine, though not enough to do anything for the man's relief. He went to see him, and determined to do what he could to give the man a chance.

When he returned to Glasgow he interested a specialist in the case, and the result was that the man was operated on, and fully restored to sight. He had lived near to help and healing all his life, but no one had ever been interested to aid him before. The chance visit of a stranger gave him his eyesight.

The young student might easily have passed on and never thought of helping the blind man. Or he might have felt that, as he knew so little about blindness, and could not cure the man himself, he was not bound to do anything. But he did not make such excuses. He did just what he could as well as he knew how, and how blessed was the result! What the visit of that stranger on his vacation meant to the man whom he rescued from darkness and helplessness can not be computed.

There are many people all around us spiritually blind—in utter darkness of soul concerning Christ and His healing power. We do not need to be able to teach them ourselves, or fully to understand their cases. But if in the spirit of this young student we do what we can to bring them to those who can help them—our pastors, our teachers, our Christian friends—we will have the joy, in many instances, of seeing them saved. Are we willing to do such humble, faithful work? If we are, we shall find it blessed and fruitful.—*Forward.*

MOUNT ABRAM

Mount Abram is the third highest mountain in the State of Maine. It overshadows the Evangelical Camp Grounds at Salem, Maine. The writer was the evangelist at the camp meeting recently closed at Salem.

In a pleasant land Mount Abram stands and high doth lift its head.
It seems to be a sentinel o'er the living and the dead.
On Creation's morn this mount was born and shall live until that day,
When the earth shall melt with fervent heat and its form shall pass away.

O'er vale and dell it holds a spell as it speaks of the misty past,
When by a workmanship divine its rugged form was cast.
For the God that made the valley, the rivers and the sea,
Cast up this lofty mountain, said: "Let Mount Abram be!"

This mountain speaks of righteousness—the righteousness of God,
Which rises like a mountain with its path the saints have trod.
O'er the plain of sin and its noisy din God's law and judgment shine:
And human worth and the sons of earth look up to the throne divine.

This mountain speaks of patience; it had its waiting spell,
Till the scream of bird and the growl of beast were drowned by the Indian's yell.
It silently watched the Red man's dance which gave place to the settler's song.
Who lifted his eyes to this rugged mount which bade him be brave and strong.

This mountain doth speak of vision; at its base the low clouds spread.
To the azure sky it rises high and the sunlight bathes its head.
So the saint can live on the Mount of God, like Mount Abram can lift his brow,
Far above the fog and the din below and shout the victory now.

In this mountain of lofty grandeur there are lower and higher peaks:
And so with its silent language, this mountain of progress speaks.
For the climber may reach the lower, and there may linger and stop;
But the brave pass along with a shout and a song till they stand on the crowning top.

There are those that rise to forgiving grace—True a mountain peak of God.
And they look down on the crooked paths which they in their sin-life trod;
But God calls on to the higher view of freedom from inborn sin;
And some ne'er rest till they reach the best and the top of the mountain win.

This mountain speaks of stability; it ne'er settled down or backslid;
Has been true to its first profession; ne'er its light 'neath a bushel hid.
Has reflected the sun in the summer, the sun in the winter too;
"O stand four-square! Be strong to dare!" Mount Abram is saying to you.

There are saints who seem like this mountain with their faith deep in love and grace;
'Mid the clamor and change of earthly things they always stay in their place;
They look down and smile like this mountain on the battle of things below,
And say, "I am fixed, for left I my place I shouldn't know where to go."

Old mountain, you've stood the storm and their blast, the heat, the cold, and the rain;
And your health seems good in the place you have stood—you seem to be on the gain.
Preach on! Preach on! till Millennial Dawn! Let thy rocks and thy forests sing!
Till some glad day, on his conquering way, you welcome the "Coming King."

DR. BAEDEKER

Dr. Baedeker, the hero evangelist (with one foot in the grave and the other in heaven), said "My time is running out, I am seventy years of age and I wish therefore to stir up the holy ambitions of my younger brethren to take up the glorious work of carrying 'the Light' into the darkest places of the earth where sin rules over the hearts of men and where nothing but the gospel and redemption by the blood of Jesus can be of any avail."