

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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VISIONS OF SELF AND

VISIONS OF JESUS

A. W. Orwig

No one can truly see himself except by divine aid. The unsaved man does not know how great a sinner he is until the Holy Spirit reveals the fact to him. Often he even boasts of his general goodness, and wonders why people talk to him about salvation. Years ago, as I spoke to a man concerning his need of being saved, he bluntly and confidently replied, "There is nothing mean about me." But soon afterward I learned of his discharge by his employer because of his special meanness.

The self-righteous Pharisee did not see the corruption of his own heart, because he flattered himself that he was one of the best of men, and thus fostered his consummate vanity. But the poor, humble publican getting a vision of himself, promptly confessed that he was a vile sinner, and then was saved. And so the thief on the cross got a view of the holiness and compassion of Jesus, and he also acknowledged himself an unworthy sinner, and found mercy and forgiveness. The dashing, persecuting, zealous Saul of Tarsus, because he was honest in his convictions, received such a vision of himself and of the Lord Jesus, as led to his instant surrender and a perfect abandonment of his entire being to the once despised Nazarene.

But there is such a thing as God's children sometimes needing a special vision of themselves in order that they may better know the depths of human depravity and the need of a more thorough conformity to the will and image of God. But at the same time they need a new vision of Jesus in his wonderful mediatorial character, able and willing to lead them into hitherto unknown experiences of holiness and spiritual power. Stirring and instructive are the accounts of not a few Christians, in which they received such visions of lurking evil, in various forms, as to cry out in great agony for deliverance.

Please allow me to cite a number of examples of persons who got such deep and clear views of indwelling evil as to mortify them beyond expression. An estimable Christian lady, in the city where I live, getting a shocking view of herself, under the all-searching Spirit of God substantially said: "The sight I got of myself was anything but pleasing. Do what I would, go where I pleased, at every turn I met my ugly self. I was utterly unable to rid myself of the self-seeking tendency. But finally the victory came. And, oh, how I adore my blessed Savior! Such glorious visions of him I have never heretofore had."

A preacher, writing of his experience concerning the revealings of the Holy Spirit, as to

his desire for a reputation for goodness which he did not really possess, says: "I can not express in words the horror of soul that seized me when I got a vision of myself as God beheld me." But it was God's method of delivering him from the unlovely self-life.

A very eminent Christian woman and excellent writer and lecturer publicly confessed, several years before her death, as to the change in her life for the better, after she obtained a vision of her true self, how that, for many years, she had desired the praise of men as one motive in her work, and had unduly praised others. Afterwards she wrote in a certain paper: "Beloved sisters, let us blot out the whole vocabulary of familiar adulatory adjectives, and go straight to our work in gladness and singleness of heart." These are words well worth pondering, especially by such as have not yet come single to the glory of God.

Sometimes it seems as if preachers, as a class, have the hardest fight of all to overcome the desire for the honor of men. One such, after the Holy Spirit had revealed to him his miserable self, said: "I never felt so mean and vile in my life. As I looked within, the sight shocked me, for I saw so much of self, even in my best efforts for God." But he afterwards got the victory.

And were not the apostles themselves, before Pentecost, largely possessed of the unholy spirit of self seeking? When Peter got a true vision of the holy Jesus, how vile he seemed to himself, and exclaimed, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" And when the young prophet Isaiah got that wonderful vision of the majesty and holiness of God, how it proved an eye opener to his own natural depravity! But it resulted in his purification.

At a mid-week prayer meeting a certain preacher requested the people to ask God to give them a vision of themselves as they never yet had, asking them to use the prayer, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me," etc. Quite a number got such a sight of themselves as to awaken deep, bitter cries for deliverance from things they knew were not in accordance with God's will. A prominent official, against whom no one knew anything wrong, confessed that he never dreamed there were such lurking evils in his heart until the Holy Spirit had shown them to him. But pleading with God for their removal, he soon found deliverance.

A prominent Christian woman declared that at a camp meeting she got a most uncomfortable vision of herself, and determined to die to self. Kneeling at the altar of prayer, and

mightily and believingly calling upon God, she obtained the desire of her heart.

Oh, may God, by his quickening Spirit and Word, give all of us such clear visions of ourselves as is necessary for our present and eternal welfare.

WHY SOME PEOPLE FAIL

Rev. J. M. Hames

That God wants us to be successful, happy, and victorious there can be no question of a doubt. He has provided all that humanity needs. In the spiritual realms the skies are loaded with Pentecostal power, waiting for our faith to tap on to the heavenly source.

In the mental realms, tens of thousands of libraries with their millions of rich volumes say to us, "If you want wisdom or learning call upon me." In the physical world there are fruits, health, and nourishing foods to build a strong, healthy body. Then with all of this in our favor why is it there are so many sickly, diseased, undeveloped men and women in the spiritual and physical realms?

In this article we will notice some causes of failure. Among some of the first is *Self-pity*. "Poor me! I am unappreciated, misunderstood, luck is against me." One of the most subtle, most contemptible things to deal with is this spirit of pitying oneself. When a fellow fails he generally lays the blame on some one else or on some circumstance. We hear the cry most every where, "People are against me; I am not given a chance." These are some of the excuses poor humanity makes for failing. There never was such a demand for successful men and women and if we have the metal in us we will finally come to our own.

The second reason for failure, is we are too easily discouraged. If the men that have made records in the past, had given up and quit at every little set-back or criticism, their names would not have been engraved upon the tablets of fame. But they held on, believed on, toiled on, until success crowned their labors. Blessed is the man that just simply refuses to be discouraged.

The third cause of failure is a lack of faith in ourselves. If we do not believe in ourselves how can we expect others to believe in us? A reasonable amount of self-confidence is necessary in order to succeed. Dismiss and eliminate every vestige of the spirit of inferiority. Believe and say to yourself, "I have just as much right to be successful as any one."

Fourth, giving away to negative emotions is another great cause of failure. We mean by negative emotions, blues and discouraging thoughts. Think, look and live on the bright, sunny side of

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Beulah Camp Meeting June 28, July 7, 1929