

THE HOLINESS CAMP MEETING

The Holiness Camp Meeting is the father of the modern Holiness Movement. From the first Holiness Camp Meeting held at Vineland, New Jersey in 1867 have sprung the National Association for the promotion of Holiness and the various organizations through all the states of the Union and Canada. This first camp meeting at Vineland had such marked manifestations of the divine favor that it was unanimously believed, by those who had it in hand, to be of God and hence more camp meetings were held. It is impossible to enumerate the number of holiness camp meetings that have been held the past summer, all over the United States and Canada.

The peculiarity of the Holiness Camp Meeting that distinguishes it from all others is this: It is a meeting held for the distinctive propagation of holiness as a second definite work of grace subsequent to regeneration and obtained by faith. If this be not its nature and work then it is not called for, for other camp meetings are held in all directions for other purposes. We do not by this mean that the conversion of sinners is neglected. In fact the glory of the modern holiness camp meeting is that while it aims at the sanctification of believers it results in the salvation of sinners, and in fact accomplishes this by the sanctification of believers. It is a fact that when the first Holiness Camp Meeting was held by the National Camp Meeting Association in Iowa under the leadership of John S. Inskip at Cedar Rapids, sinners were converted by the scores, if not hundreds. This is only a sample of what has been going on since. The leaders believe that the infilling of the Holy Spirit when believers are sanctified wholly, brings great conviction upon sinners. When the Holiness Camp Meeting ceases to be distinctly and definitely for the promotion of the second work of grace, it will go down as it should. We have no call as holiness people for any other kind of camp meeting.

The strength of the Holiness Camp Meeting depends on the amount of prayer and the spirit of prayer. Every camp meeting is a battle ground between the Holy Spirit and the forces of evil. It is a real struggle. There are no soft, easy holiness meetings that run along without any difficulty, and any holiness camp meeting that runs without opposition is not the kind that preaches death to the carnal mind. It is a battle with the "Old Man", who does not propose to be crucified. Meetings that bring on no battle are not of the kind of holiness that Jesus and the Apostles preached.

The Holiness Movement is like the image of Nebuchadnezzar's vision, with legs part of iron and part clay. While the Movement has been divinely ordained and has the approval of God in its success, yet like all movements that man has any part in, it is as weak as man is.

When Holiness Camp Meetings cease to be definitely and emphatically pronounced on the second work of grace and when they lose the atmosphere of prayer they begin to decay. We know of some meetings now that are wondering why they no longer attract the people. The cause is obvious enough when we remember what Holiness Camp Meetings are supposed to represent. They fall into the snare of seeking more to be entertained by star preaching than to fight out on their knees the battle with the carnal mind.

Christian Witness, 1922

Such was the "power of the resurrection" upon the Christians to whom it was the prime reality. Easter, not Christmas, was the guarantee of their faith.—*Selected.*

VISION! FAITH! WORKS!

In Proverbs 29:18 we read these words, "Where there is no vision the people perish." No truer words ever were spoken than these words of our text, and to our mind, no words picture the condition of the church and its standing in the world today better than these words.

Nothing is ever undertaken and nothing ever accomplished except first there has been a vision. No war is ever launched without some man or set of men looking ahead to the possibilities of same. The great Suez and Panama Canals never would have made history as mighty feats of engineering skill and accomplishment had not somebody had a mighty brainstorm, and no doubt the immensity of the visions in these connections started those who first thought of them. The great bridge at Quebec is the result of vision, and though much difficulty was encountered, men looked on and shook a doubtful head when the second attempt to place the centre span ended in defeat and loss of life, yet the vision held and conquered all doubts in triumph.

Edison was sent home from school as a numbskull and soon began to have visions. Men smiled, looked wise and called him a dreamer, but those visions matured into faith, and Edison stands today the prince of inventors. Likewise Ford let visions grip his heart and mind until in the short space of ten years he became the richest man in the world. Lincoln had a vision which resulted in the freeing of the slave. Moody, though unlearned, was carried away on the wings of a mighty vision until a world became better because of his having lived in it. Wesley, too, set a fire burning which has stirred the hearts of millions and the cause of holiness soared to its highest pinnacle because Wesley caught the vision.

Yes, the words of our text have a tremendous meaning, but, you say, has vision alone produced these remarkable results? And to this I must answer no. Faith must always follow vision before anything is accomplished. Jesus says: "According to your faith be it unto you," and immediately I hear someone come back with James 2:17: "Faith without works is dead." Ah! too many people are looking to works to save them and have not the least degree of Faith. It is by faith we are saved and by works we prove our faith, James 2:18, so then Faith produces works and works proves faith.

Well we know that something has gone wrong in the world, what is the trouble; has God changed? No. He cannot change. Has humanity changed? I believe not! I have found that the human heart still longs for something to satisfy and I begin to see signs of the great mass getting dissatisfied with what the world has to offer and is really longing for the true gospel. No doubt many will smile at that remark but I must say I am finding a response to the Gospel which stirs my heart these days. Oh! If the church were only proclaiming the wonderful message of the Risen Lord and His full salvation instead of seeking to entertain, what revivals we would be having. Dil I say REVIVALS! Yes, in the true sense of the word. The church has ceased to have revivals and are now just having "Special Meetings" and it is wonderful how we have lost the word "Revival" and

taken up the phrase "Special meetings" which after all can mean so little.

Yes, we are following out a custom and in many cases, I am afraid, if we were to truly acknowledge it to ourselves, we do not expect a revival. We pray, "Lord, make this special meeting the beginning of a great revival in the land," and, like the old woman who prayed that the hill would be removed from in front of her house, then went to the window and said, "Just as I expected, the hill is still there," at the end of our special meetings we say, "Well, just as I expected; meetings, yes, but no revival; the days of revivals are past." "O ye of little faith."

Many, I believe, have the beginning of a vision, but it is immediately stifled and put away from us as visionary. Remember the words of our text, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Yes, we must have a vision, vision is necessary, it is scriptural. Acts 2-17. Pray for a vision, and when it begins to take form, do not stifle it. Let it come, encourage it, let it run riot and build "air castles" if you please, let it grip you and carry you away with it until you are lost in its enthusiasm. Only in this way will vision ever reach a point of contact with faith, and remember that "according to your faith be it unto you." God has promised to bring our visions to a reality, for in Ephesians 3-20 we read, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." That ought to make us rejoice to know that the greater the vision the greater the result, yea, greater even than our vision will be the coming to pass because God has promised it. Glory to His Matchless Name! More than you can think, that is it, more than you can think.

Pray for a vision, and when you get it don't ever lose sight of it, for without a vision the people will perish. Amen!

E. S. COSMAN.

PREVAILING PRAYER

Pray that the Holy Spirit
May speak to the hearts of men,
And shake the enemy's kingdom;
You'll have a revival then.

Pray when the burdens press heavy,
Pray when the way seems long;
I'll grant you your petition,
I'll give you the victor's song.

You grovel in your weakness
When I have promised power;
I'll give you strength for labor,
Trust Me this very hour.

Let not your heart be heavy,
And think that I do not care;
For from My mansions in glory,
I'll answer prevailing prayer.

Let not the enemy enter
And tell you to patiently wait;
For while you are waiting for strength to
speak,
To some it may be too late.

—Mrs. W. M. Stanley.

"He who gave an element to satisfy every beast of the field, bird of the air, and fish of the sea, will not deny the legitimate cravings of the human spirit."

Conquer thyself. Till thou hast done that, thou art a slave; for it is almost as well to be in subjection to another's appetite as thine own.—*Burton.*