

POWER

Men crave it, seek for it, yea, even would buy it, do buy it whenever possible and at times at a fearful cost.

The power we wish to meditate upon is power with God. A few questions might bring out some answers which will help us.

Can a person have power with God and with man? Yes. Is it possible to have power with man, we mean along spiritual lines and not with God? We answer, little if any when it comes through the medium of divine truth. Is it possible to have power with God and not with man? It is because of man's ability of resistance to truth. Many a man's efforts have been hindered right at this point. Do men always retain power either with God or men? No. Can lost power be regained? We believe it can. What causes man to forfeit this power with God? Now we are approaching the vital point of our subject, the cause or causes.

That many have lost their power with God is a well known fact to the world. Is there anything that will take the place in a life that power with God can? No. It must surely be a luring form of temptation that induces a person to make the change, and yet it is being done every day.

Now we may do well in considering what some of the things that are robbing souls of their power with God and largely with man. One thing we must remember, however, is that a common price does not prevail, some sell out for one thing and some for another, but the fact is there, the power is gone.

Now for the causes.

Desire for gain has in many instances robbed men of what the gain received can never buy.

A longing to be somebody in the eyes of men. The spirit of pride comes in and power ekes out.

A compromising spirit with the world always weakens the compromiser.

A departing from the plain paths, as are revealed to us in God's word.

A lack in prayer and due study of the word.

A desire not to be peculiar in dress, a trimming towards the world.

Beloved, these and many other reasons are robbing men of their power with God. How many have we all known who catered to the world who once had power with God but today are weak and powerless. Some may still retain a beautiful exterior, like an engine, fully equipped but having no steam and thus no power. Frequently substitutes are sought for in lives of various kinds of service to replace lost power. Is that not the worldwide appeal of many worldly church organizations, service, service, service. All man and no God.

God says power first and service afterwards, but man hopes to become powerful through his efforts. Where God's plans are reversed there will surely be a failure.

It is a sad sight to see these failures. No power is cheap, much less that with God. Look at our power plants dotted here and there over our land all at a cost more or less great. To have power with God man must sell out his interest in the world and invest with God. Man in building a power plant has plans to follow; so man to have power with God, has plans to follow; and to retain that power there are also plans to follow. Very little things are today robbing God's people of this gift. "Little foxes spoil the vines," we are told. Just a little trimming towards the world will lead on from one thing to another

till the soul like Sampson of old, finds itself shorn of its strength, unequal for the combat and often defeated. A sad spectacle to good men and angels; a cause of joy to devils and bad men. Reader! have you ever been the cause of the latter?

A secret sin means no power. Unconfessed sin, even though not practiced means no power. Worldly desires, worldly pleasures, worldly literature and a love of the world and its customs spell powerlessness. A forsaking of the old paths of truth and a seeking of new ones in the errors of the present century have caused the downfall of many a spiritual giant for God. A hankering after churchly fame and position rather than to walk in the humble pathway of the meek and lowly Saviour spell out in due time a weakened life.

Oh, for men like Redfield, Finney, Roberts, Wesley and a host of others who would not sell out their interest in the things of God at any price. What is a sadder sight than folks shorn of their power and yet seeking in many ways and means to keep up "appearances?" This cannot be done successfully, even the world can detect the fraud.

In conclusion, where is the gain? There is none. It is all loss. Beloved, do we honestly desire power with God? If we do then let us be willing to pay the price. As a people are we where we once were? If not why not? Let us go digging about our lives and if there has been a letting down of the bars towards the world and its loves up with them higher than ever. Put forth super-human efforts to regain all lost ground. Christ was a spectacle here upon earth. See Him disrobed by the cruel soldiers and lashed till His fair form was mangled and bleeding. Paul said he was one also. Are we any better than they? Let us not forfeit our heritage in Christ for any of the old truck of the world. As Sampson when shorn of his locks became powerless, so I fear many sisters have become the same and for the same reason.

God's word cannot be set aside in life, and power with God retained. Let God be true and may His truth be the light to our way in this life and if done power once received will be returned.

The Holiness Era.

A. D. DEWAR

THE SUBJECT OF MISSIONS

With an absorbing interest the subject of missions should engage the thought of every follower of Jesus. It has to do with the salvation of souls, with the spread of the gospel and its diffusion of light, and elevating influence, and with the occupancy of the earth by Jesus Christ and His followers. The foundation for missions and missionary work is in the love of God. Its inspiration is the energy of the Holy Spirit, and for our encouragement in it, we have the immutable promises of the Divine Word. Promises not only of help and blessing, but of the final triumph of Christ, when "the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."

I. The cause of missions has its origin in the great heart of God. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He willeth not the death of any, but appeals in tenderest tones of infinite love. "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." The subject of missions was introduced and carried out into the very center of the world's wretchedness by our Lord Jesus

Christ. On Calvary He exemplified the courage, faith, and true spirit of mission work; and radiating from that center, unique in history, the gospel goes forth to all lands and to every soul with its message of "peace on earth, good will to man." Pentecost is a mighty divine re-enforcement of the work already thoroughly begun, and every pentecostal disciple and preacher was a missionary going out into the city of Jerusalem, over the hills of Judea, and across the plains of Samaria—everywhere testifying, witnessing for Christ, suffering, dying, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to assist in advancing the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. For examples of missionary enterprise see the early church. Read the thirteenth chapter of Acts. Study the Apostle Paul. Note his three missionary journeys, recorded respectively, Acts 13, 14; Acts 16, 18; and Acts 19, 20.

II. It is the duty of all Christians to enter into the spirit and work of missions. "Go ye into all the world." If the Savior yearns to hold up the virtue of His cross to the view of sin-cursed humanity elsewhere, how can we be His followers unless we also receive His Spirit and commit ourselves as He may order, to the spread of His gospel to those who must surely be lost unless they accept Him. If the church is void of interest in mission work is it not under the curse pronounced by a prophet of the old who said: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion?" Are we a Pentecostal church if we are not missionary in spirit and practice?

III. The cause of missions appeals to the consecrated energy of the church. There are many drains upon the thought, faith and effect of the church, but among the many interests demanding our effort in some way, are we free from guilt when we neglect missions, the very heart of practical Christianity? To me there is more meaning than ever before in the words of Scripture, "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall find it." The subject of missions demands study. We ought to seek to become intelligent concerning the work of the Lord, in order that we may serve the Lord more intelligently, and thus more successfully. If your church paper don't publish mission news, get literature that will.

Again, we should pray for missions. If Paul craved the prayers of the saints, surely every worker to-day feels the need of prayer. So for the work, the workers, and all connected with the same, we should pray. "Ask of me," said the Lord, "and I will give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession." Moreover, the cause is one worthy of a part of our means. Consider the needs of mission work in our conference, in different parts of our own land, and also in foreign fields. Be sure to have a record in the judgment of something done, an effort at least, for the redemption of the lost. Our energies poured out thus for Christ and His kingdom will return as our reward, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold.

The day of privilege hastens to a close. Let us take heed to ourselves, lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon us unaware.—J. J. Coleman.

Only man can help man; money without man can do little or nothing, more likely less than nothing. As our Lord redeemed the world by being a man, the true Son of the true Father, so the only way for a man to help men is to be a true man to his neighbor and to that.—G. MacDonald.