

COME UP HIGHER

Rev. J. M. Hames

In order to get a commanding view of the beautiful scenery in nature it is necessary to ascend to some knoll or mountain where you can see miles of green fields and waving grain. In like manner if we would know something of that ideal life God intended we should live we must come up higher. Man has a complex nature; he is like a three story building. The top story is likened to his higher, spiritual nature, where the inner man has his throne. The middle story we will call his soul, his intellectual nature. The basement, his body. Here are where millions upon millions live in the base, fleshly, animal part of their natures. The lower part of the brain was intended to serve the higher faculties, not to minister to the further development of a purely animal existence. Until the finer part of the brain is developed, we know nothing of the joys of life. The philosophy of life of this class is to "eat, drink, be merry, for tomorrow we die." If they ever read it is mostly a cheap, yellow back novel or some sensual, low sex story. If God had been pleased with that type of life He would have let the antediluvians lived in Noah's day, for they lived only in their base, fleshly nature.

There is another class that live a step higher. Music, art, flowers, literature and the beautiful things of life appeal to them. But this is only a nature life. The spiritual and higher nature has never been quickened. But God's ideal is up in the third story, which is the region of our higher and finer senses.

When a person lives in his higher nature, it brings a sense of refinement, culture and politeness, that it is impossible to have while living in the basement of his nature. There is a battle going on in every truly converted life between the flesh and the spirit, the higher and the lower. But the beauty of being sanctified wholly is that self is slain, the "old man" is dead, Christ is crowned within, and the higher spiritual nature controls and brings unuer subjection the physical nature and makes the body behave itself.

Reader, if you have lived in the basement all these years look around. There is a stairway that leads to the higher and spiritual nature. Get right quiet and listen and you will hear a voice saying, "Come up higher."—The Wesleyan Methodist.

THE THIRD PERSON

Before a Christian is Entirely Sanctified (1 Thess. 5:23) and made Perfect in Love (1 John 4:17) he does not know the Holy Spirit as being other than a sweet influence coming from the Father and the Son. But the instant he is Sanctified Wholly the Holy Ghost is revealed to him as a person, the Glorious Third Person in the Adorable Trinity. From this time on the Christian not only recognizes the Holy Ghost, but he also loves and adores Him, because He is an invisible Person who is to accompany him in the remainder of his journey to Heaven. A friend who walks with the soul every step of the way, as Jesus promised He should. When He is come into a Christian's life through the Entire Sanctification of that Christian He proves himself to be the very Friend and Comforter that we need. Read the 14th to 17th chapters of St. John's Gospel.

It is worth all its costs in Entire Consecration to be Entirely Sanctified, if for nothing else than to find out this secret concerning

the Trinity, and to realize that the Father and the Son are not our only Friends; we have also another Friend and Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot see, nor can they know Him. But, thank God, the Christian can be conscious of His presence all the time. Amen!

"Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire;
Let us Thine influence prove,
Source of the old prophetic fire,
Fountain of light and love.

"Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee
Thy prophets wrote and spoke;
Unlock the truth, Thyself the key,
Unseal the sacred book.

"Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove,
Brood o'er our nature's night;
On our disordered spirits move,
And let there now be light.

"God, through Himself, we then shall know,
If Thou within us shine;
And sound, with all Thy saints below,
The depths of love divine."

QUESTONS FOR A SEEKER AFTER HOLINESS

Art thou weary of that carnal mind which is enmity to God? Canst thou be happy while thou art unholy? Dost thou know anything of God's love to thee? Dost thou not know that He has given His Son to die for thee? Dost thou love Him in return for His love? And canst thou love Him a little without desiring to love Him more? Dost thou not feel that thy happiness grows in proportion to thy love and subjection to Him? Dost thou not wish to be happy? And dost thou not know that holiness and happiness are as inseparable as sin and misery? Canst thou have too much happiness or too much holiness? Canst thou be made holy and happy too soon? Art thou not weary of a sinful heart? Are not thy bad tempers, pride, anger, peevishness, fretfulness, covetousness and the various unholy passions that too often agitate thy soul a source of misery and woe to thee? And canst thou be unwilling to have them destroyed? Arise, then, and shake thyself from the dust, and call upon thy God! His ear is not heavy that it can not hear; His hand is not shortened that it can not save. Behold, now is the accepted time.—Adam Clarke.

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

If you ask how the Holy Spirit can dwell within us and work through us, without destroying our personality, I can not tell. How can the electric current fill and transform a dead wire into a live one, which you dare not touch? How can a magnetic current fill a piece of steel and transform it into a mighty force which, by its touch, can raise tons of iron, as a child would lift a feather? How can fire dwell in a piece of iron until its very appearance is that of fire, and it becomes a firebrand? I can not tell.

Now, what fire and electricity and magnetism do in iron and steel the Holy Spirit does in the spirits of men who believe on Jesus, follow Him wholly, and trust Him intelligently. He dwells in them, and inspires them until they are all alive with the very life of God.—Selected.

PUT UNDER GRACE

I remember when a boy, I used to go to a certain school in New England, where we had a quick-tempered master, who always kept a rattan. It was, "If you don't do this, and don't do that, I'll punish you." I remember many a time of this rattan being laid upon my back. I think I can almost feel it now. He used to rule that school by law. But after a while there was osmebody who began to get up a movement in favor of controlling the school by love. A great many said you can never do that with those unruly boys, but after some talk it was at last decided to try it. I remember how we thought of the good time we would have that winter when the rattan would be out of the school. We thought we would then have all the fun we wanted. I remember who the teacher was—it was a lady—and she opened the school with prayer. We hadn't seen it done before and we were impressed, especially when she prayed that she might have grace and strength to rule the school with love. Well, the school went on for several weeks and we saw no rattan, but at last the rules were broken, and I think I was the first boy to break them. She told me to wait till after school and then she would see me. I thought the rattan was coming out sure, and I stretched myself up in warlike attitude. After school, however, I didn't see the rattan, but she sat down by me and told me how she loved me, and how she had prayed to be able to rule that school by love, and concluded by saying, "I want to ask you one favor—that is, if you love me try to be a good boy;" and I never gave her trouble again. She just put me under grace. And that is what the Lord does. God is love, and He wants us all to love Him.—Dwight L. Moody, in The Free Methodist.

"HE GOETH BEFORE"

"He knoweth the way that I take"

Jesus never sends a man ahead alone. He blazes a clear way through every thicket and woods, and then softly calls, "Follow me. Let's go on together, you and I." He has been everywhere that we are called to go. His feet have trodden down smooth a path through every experience that comes to us. He knows each road, and knows it well—the valley road of disappointment, with its dark shadows; the steep path of temptation, down through the rocky ravines and slippery gullies; the narrow path of pain, with the brambly thorn-bushes, so close on each side, with their slash and sting; the dizzy road along the heights of victory, and the old beaten road of commonplace daily routine. Every day paths He has trodden and glorified, and will walk anew with each of us. The only safe way to travel is with Him alongside and in control. This was the original Eden plan. God was the host in Eden. Man was His house-guest. That is still the plan. God plans thoughtfully for everything that concerns us. And we need to exercise the guest's thoughtful care that no shadow of misunderstanding be allowed to come in to disturb the rare intimacy between host and guest.—Rev. S. D. Gordon—Way of Holiness.

The Spirit power will . . . make us what I may call affirmative. That is one of our needs today: affirmative men and women, believers who know the Lord, and who know they know Him.—J. H. Jowett.