

# 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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## The Power of God.

Rev. H. C. Sanders

By Rev. Clinton Bard

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16.

What does Paul mean by "the power of God"? I take it that he means the *Holy Ghost*. Christianity rests on four main pillars: the Virgin Birth, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Pentecost. You take out one pillar and the rest fall; but Paul seems to think the Gospel of Christ reached its high point in the "power of God." (the Holy Ghost given at Pentecost.)

When a man is saved, he has the Holy Ghost in a measure. If he obeys the leadings and minds the checkings of the Holy Ghost, he will soon be filled with the Holy Ghost, have his pentecost. If he fails to obey the leadings and to mind the checkings of the Spirit, he either goes back to the "beggarly elements of the world" or drifts into a "form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." How sad that the majority of the church members of today are in this latter class. The Word says, "from such turn away." This to my mind is a very plain command regarding holding union services with formal churches.

"Denying the power thereof"—denying the Holy Ghost is a gross sin of the age. To be filled with the Holy Ghost means to have "the power of God," yea, power against which devils and men are powerless. When the apostles and early Christians were filled with the Holy Ghost, they had "power." And the power they possessed was only the fulfillment of the promise, "Behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). "But ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." "But ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you" (margin) Acts 1:5, 8.

And What Did This "Power" Accomplish?

First, it gave them boldness to witness for Jesus. How different from their action at his arrest when "they all forsook him and fled" (Mark 14:50). Now Peter stands up and answers the accusation of drunkenness and preaches with boldness a most wonderful sermon resulting in 3,000 conversions. Later, when threatened by the religious authorities to not speak nor teach in the name of Jesus, we read that "when they had prayed," asking for boldness to speak Jesus' words, "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." "and with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 4:31, 33.)

Secondly, this "power" enabled them to suf-

fer for Jesus' sake, joyfully (Acts 5:41). "Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." When Stephen (of whom it was said thrice that he was full of the Holy Ghost) was dying a martyr's death because of the Jews' stones, what did he say? "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." What was the result? A Paul, that has meant more to Christianity than any other man. This Holy Ghost power enabled Paul and Silas to sing though backs were sore and bleeding. What was the result? The jailor and all his house were saved.

Thirdly, this "power" convicts sinners and believers. Jesus said (John 16:8) "And when He (the Holy Ghost) is come, He will reprove (convict) the world of sin and of righteousness, and of judgment." How true this was! When Peter preached his Pentecostal sermon, his hearers being "pricked in their hearts," said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Why? Convicted by Holy Ghost. We read that after the deacons were appointed "and the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7.) How did this come about? Through the Holy Ghost. Saul, who was later called Paul, said on the Damascus road, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" not wholly because the Lord supernaturally appeared to him, but also because he saw the power of the Holy Ghost in Stephen. Following the midnight prayer meeting in the Philippian jail, the earthquake opened the doors. What do we see the jailor doing and hear him saying? Coming trembling, falling down at their feet, he brought them out of prison and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Why? Convicted by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Now, it is true we have been talking of apostolic times. But what about present times? Listen. Peter, at the close of his Pentecostal sermon in making his altar call, said: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost; for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 1:38,39.) Does that take us in today? Most assuredly. Did not our Lord say? (Rev. 22:17.) "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Is not that a call that takes you and me and everybody in? Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Can we—you and I—be filled with the Holy Ghost today? Without question we can. Are we? Let result speak.

It is possible to be filled with the Holy

Ghost and have "power" to boldly witness in these perilous times for Jesus. *It is possible* to be filled with the Holy Ghost and have joy and peace and sweetness amidst the persecution that will follow. *It is possible* to be filled with the Holy Ghost and see Him through us convict sinners of sin, righteousness and judgment.

To boldly witness for Jesus, how little we see or hear of it. When folks come to our door or to visit in our homes, do we let them go away without witnessing for Jesus? Do we witness for Jesus in the letters we write, yes, even in our business letters? You say, how? A tract is one way. Do we go to our neighbors' homes *purposefully* to witness for Jesus?

Most professors of religion have never been sanctified, never been baptized with the Holy Ghost, have very little of the power of God about them, are so discouraged with their failures to attain to their ideal of a Christian life that they are ashamed to speak to others about their soul. They may call it humility on their part, but according to God's Word, it is the lack of the power of God. Paul speaks of speaking in the "demonstration of the spirit and of power." Another time, he speaks of "the power that worketh in us." Where, oh, where is it?

Manifestation of the power of God will bring persecution just as it did in Apostolic days. Does not the Word say, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." But, oh, the sweetness of suffering for Jesus! The Apostles even rejoiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." O to be yielded to the Holy Ghost! To let the power of God work through us—pray through us—preach through us. Blessed privilege!

Why so few revivals? Just a lack we fear of being baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, that empowers us to witness, to suffer, and to be soul-winners for Jesus. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Repent, do the first works, regain thy first love and "tarry until ye be endued with power from on high." Shall we? Then and only then can Pentecost be repeated.

Ashville, N. Y.

Lord Tennyson wrote: "Mighty hopes make us men." The religion of Jesus Christ is the most potent agency in life for the production of "mighty hopes." Hence, to be real men is to be real Christians.

They testify their lives, that is they make a profession and live a moral life; that is religion enough. Oh, what a doctrine of devils is that! It is enough to ruin the whole human race.