

# 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 REVIVAL THAT IS NEEDED IN YOUR TOWN

Joseph H. Smith

And first, I want us to have it clearly in mind that a revival is not only for the saving of the lost, or the reclamation of the back-slidden or the restoration of the former times. Revivals are needed for the advance of the present times; to give strength and flight to those that are forging ahead; and for the enlightenment, encouragement and enduement of those that are blessedly saved. A favorite figure in the Scripture is that of "showers," "outpouring of rain," "floods upon the dry ground," water upon him that is thirsty. "TIMES OF REFRESHING from the presence of the Lord." Now it is evident that that which "thirsts" has life. Rain is wanted for growing crops. The concern over shortage of rain last winter in Southern California, was not of those who had no land, or who had sowed no grain, or whose garden and orchards had already gone back and died out, but of those who had valuable orange groves with crops but partially matured, and fields of grain at a standstill for lack of the early and later rains. Thus it is with grace. As in vegetation the springing and the blade, and the bud and the blossom, and the setting of the fruit, and the growth and its maturing and ripening, all depend upon moisture, and welcome the dews, revel in the showers and await the seasonable downpours; so in the spiritual life of the soul, and the growth of Christ's kingdom upon the earth, it seems ordained that these shall flourish by frequent refreshings and gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit. These result in the conviction, conversions, sanctification and uplift of souls, as well as in the calling and enduement and sending of workers into the harvest field, and the enterprising of Evangelistic and Missionary propaganda. This is what we mean by Revival.

And while it is to be deeply regretted that Revivals have become more or less out of date in many churches, and the present day ministry has largely lost the holy art of Evangelism, yet in this very condition, strangely enough, there is a stubborn fact which strongly emphasizes both the need and the value of Revivals. A fact we have demonstrated by testing scores of congregations, and that of various Christian denominations. It is this, that full three-fourths of all the people now worshipping with us, who have been truly converted and know their sins forgiven, have been converted in seasons of Revival; or under evangelistic ministers at camp meetings and the like. This, too, is notably true of those who have found that pearl of great price, the gracious experience of Perfect Love. Revivalism is as essential, at least, as Fundamentalism to the Kingdom of Christ.

And since there are different kinds of Revivals we will note first several that are not what your town needs:

NOT a Revival of Sectarianism or Sabbath Day Agitation. Honest and good men differ upon those matters; and some equally true and spiritual are classed on opposite sides of such subjects. The result of agitation therefore can only be contention, and contention even about "meats and drinks," and "Sabbath Days," and "Ordinances" do hinder and hurt rather than help the true spirit of revivals.

NOT a Sectarian Revival—neither to proselyte into our church, nor to decry all churches because of the corruption and failures of some—not a sort of religious Bolshevism that would despise all dignity and rule or would class the churches as Babylon, and wrongfully apply the call to "Come out from among them" to church institutions, or in that somewhat milder form of it that declares "you cannot live a holy life and stay in the old church," but must come out and join ours." No, this is not the kind of revival your town needs.

Neither does it need a Revival of Modernism; for mark you, the only thing new about "modernism" is its name. The proposal of a religion without the sacrifice of a bleeding lamb is as old as Cain; and the denial of the truth of God's Word goes as far back as to Satan with Eve in the garden of Eden. And these two are the only feet that "Modernism" stands upon. But in pretence of serving a new age, and appealing to men's higher thoughts, and adapting to conditions of the times, the very Anti-Christ that has already appeared in John's time with its "love of the world" and its denial of the Son of God, is posing as something new. Just as scale and other vermin pests may flourish in the orchard when the soil is sour, or the rain fall deficient, so the dearth of Revivalism has given occasion for the multiplication of many false cults, and the propagation of subtle infidelity in the Church and schools. Your town wants no modern revival of time aged Anti-Christ.

A Union Revival is hardly what you need. Not that we would intimate that these have done no good. But the reaction is unfortunate if not often fatal to the revivalism we would encourage. For three years to follow, and sometimes five, regular revivals in the churches have been almost impossible and people apathetic concerning such when there has been a big drive on somewhat of a mechanical union base. The influx into the churches, too, both of converts and of spiritual influence and power are often most disappointing. As a rule, too, the distinctive work of Holiness is tabooed in such "Union" Revivals. And the Revival your town needs is one that at least allows Holiness its rightful Bible place.

But what is needed is a REVIVAL IN ALL THE CHURCHES each and every one. As Bud Robinson says: "A body likes to take medicine best out of his own spoon." And we might add, "one likes best to get his meals in his own home, and at his own table." For even where there is no sectarianism there is a proper Denominationalism that binds men to

the own tribe of Israel. Revivalism should be the feature of every church program, as fixed as is the Sabbath service, or the prayer meeting, the singing or the collection. And (without attempt at artificial union), wherever there are special outpourings in some of the churches—let the others fellowship—not to proselyte but to participate and cooperate.

The Revival needed in your town is a REVIVAL OF FAMILY WORSHIP. The home is the ante-room to the church, and the break-water against the world's inflow upon the family. We have gone to extremes on public meetings, and organizations, and rides and drives, till the home is only a lodging place for the men, an eating and fussing place for the children, and a gadding and gossiping center for the women in many instances. Your children need more than they can get in Sunday school, and they need to get at home an antidote for much they get at Day school, and daily offset to what they see and hear on the streets. We could well afford to form no more "auxiliaries" and to suspend a lot of "committees," and omit attendance upon a few public services ourselves for the coming year to give attention to the religion of the home.

Then, you need a Revival of DOCTRINAL PREACHING. The exposition of God's Word is left largely to the Holiness Movement. The average minister has been unfitted with the germ of destructive criticism, till he is paralyzed with shame to declare anything on the simple authority of God's word. The Doctrine of Sin, of Righteousness and of Judgment needs not simply to be held—but to be PREACHED. And so too the doctrine of the Vicarious Death of Christ and Salvation full and free through His Blood. And the truth concerning the Holy Spirit should be revived not simply as a teaching; but also as a fact of deference to His light and leading and control in all things of the Church and of the Christian life.

With these, there is need of a REVIVAL of TESTIMONY. It is a witnessing church and ministry that wins. Christ has conjoined power and testimony in Acts 1:8. Malachi prophesied of such a revival visitation and said, "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord harkened and heard it." While there is a due respect of leaders and of chief ministers, God never designed, however, an only "one man ministry." "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." "There are diversities of gifts" as the Spirit strives to exercise through all the "members of the body." So, too, the need of a Revival of personal evangelism, both in connection with and independent of the public services.

And in conclusion—perhaps the greatest need of all is that of a Revival of the Prayer Life. Notice, we did not say the Prayer meeting, though that, of course, will follow: But the Prayer LIFE. This brings omnipotence

Ward Miller, Dec 30  
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