

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

VOL. XXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., JUNE 15, 1932

NO. 21

BEWARE!

Joseph H. Smith

The devil is wily. We must be wary.

Suggestion is a chosen realm of Satan's approaches to the soul. And we will have to be ever on guard as to what thoughts enter our minds. Thoughts as to ourselves, thoughts as to others, thoughts as to God. Self interest, either as to pleasure, or possession, or position, is ever the deceitful appeal of this enemy of our souls—but when he promises liberty, or property, or power, and honor, he purposes our destruction all the while—though he may turn the tide of prosperity to us for a little time. Free-thought, free action, and free-love, are hell's pretensions of liberty, and every one of these leads to chains and prison, dungeon darkness, and doom.

Suspicion is an intrigue of Satan as to others. As an angel of light he sometimes foists this off as a gift for the "discerning of spirits." He would have us discredit and discount their motives in good works; and have us put the worst construction upon anything in their conduct of which we have but rumored or partial information; and of which distance, broken communication, or suspense, allows us no explanation. It is he that suggests we are better than we are, and others worse than they seem or really are. By injecting distrust of some that are prominent in God's work, he plans to have us doubt all that are in such work; and then to distrust the work itself and ultimately doubt God. Wherever he can find a carnal ally in some Christian's heart, he works to cause divisions in the ranks of God's people. Church ruptures, whether in the choir, the official board, or some of the social and other auxiliaries, make place for the devil. And a church "split" has been known to prevent a revival of religion for several years, during which time many persons have died and their souls were lost, who would otherwise have been saved.

Depression and Discouragement. The Psalmist is moved at times to exclaim, "Why art thou disquieted within me?" The apostle Peter, who had become quite well acquainted with the devices of the enemy, talks of the probability of "our being for a season in heaviness because of manifold temptations." This "heaviness" is meant to paralyze our spiritual energies; to cause a pause in the stirrings of our hope, to chill our love, and to unsettle our faith. Some have yielded to it, and given up the treasures of their souls. Some have despaired and committed suicide. In absence of news, he suggests the worst news. With intimation that one in whom we have interest, has fallen or lapsed a bit in their spiritual experience, he suggests then that it is, or surely will be, a total fall and a hopeless case. He wants us to brood over sad news or discouraging facts. Thence he would match out gloom upon our own souls, and fears—if not certain conclusions of frightful outcomes, of the others. All Pessimism is hatched in his incubator during the night-fall gloom of such depressions.

Assault upon our Faith is ever his objective. His fowls carry away the seed of truth sown in wayside winds of vain and loose thinking. He will use some difficulty or disaster in our lives to plant an "if" or a "why" or question or doubt before our faith in God's goodness and power. He will employ scholars (and pay them well) to project questions as to the authenticity, the accuracy, and the authority of Scriptures. He himself inspires doctrines that at first, have a semblance of goodness, and greatness and grace, but which are only meant (and are well calculated) to shift one's feet from rock to sand, and to condone iniquity and sin. Every religion has either God or Satan as its author and propagator. And the attractions and lures of the false are but evidences of the devil's trickery in appearing as an "angel of light." "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Persistence, with versatility, is the fixed policy of the devil's kingdom. We may have seasons of rest from temptations; but not exemption until Jesus comes or we go beyond this vale of probation. Some of the oldest and ripest of saints have had their most subtle and strongest temptations at the eventide of life. Not till the night in Gethsemane did Satan end his attacks upon the Son of man. Sins of youth are sometimes suggestive in later life when they seem beyond possibility of performing; yet the desire, the purpose, the effort or attempt will be enough to satisfy the devil's design in corrupting the soul afresh, and bringing it under the condemnation of God.

Every stage of life, variety of physical condition, and change of occupation, location and associations, opens doors to new suggestions of Satan, with fresh dangers of apostasy. If there had been any truth in the Eternal Security of believers, the devil would have known it, and relaxing his persistence contented himself with simply annoying Christians and disturbing their peace for a bit. But alas! alas! he has actually succeeded in ensnaring and damning some venerable pilgrims who had themselves snatched many brands from the burning. Till this, our probation, has ended and the pearly gates are closed in behind us, hell has given up none of us. And Satan's persistence will pursue us until the end of the race.

Christ has overcome Satan for himself and for us. And there is no certain and complete victory over the devil apart from the faith of Christ. Persons possessed of demons fear the name of Christ. Heathen nations fulfill the devil's will. Infidel schools in our own land send forth many emissaries of the wicked one. Apostate churches and fallen ministers in our own day, like Pharisees and scribes in the days of Christ, "do the works of the devil." Remaining carnality in many imperfect Christians makes much place for this enemy of God and man. For even the best of saints, it is necessary on account of the weakness of the flesh, the wickedness of the world, and the malice and intrigue of

Satan, to "watch and pray that they enter not into temptation." The devil that entered into the heart of Judas, "desired also to have Peter that he might sift him as wheat." And, but for the intercession of Christ, he would have gotten him. His assaults, while sometimes as under a cover of darkness, are sometimes as a flash, like a "fiery dart," which only "the shield of faith can quench." The victors "overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony." "The seed of the woman's heel has bruised the head of the serpent." That is to say, that Satan's power is broken by the death of Christ our Lord. And steadfast faith in Calvary's Cross will successfully resist the devil and he will flee from you. In many instances all that is needed is that his mask be torn, his disguise broken; and as soon as we discover that the depression, the dejection, the discouragement, and the suggestions are of him, he leaves us for a season. His ruse has failed.

Remember, beloved, that He that hath abolished death for us and given us assurance of the resurrection, has also vanquished him that hath the power of death, and given us full assurance that we may withstand in the last day (of Satan's assault) and "having done all, to stand." But we must "have on the whole armour," be "strong in the Lord," and "pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."—Heart and Life.

ETERNAL YOUTH

This earthly tent in which I dwell
Will soon be gone beyond repair:
But I am not the tent, you know,
If so, I would indeed despair.—11 Cor. 5:1.)

The dress I wear is not myself,
Nor is the house in which I dwell.
I'll lay aside this robe of flesh,
And to this house will say, "Farewell"
—(II Cor. 5:2.)

My steps, once sprightly, now are slow,
And falter as they onward move:
With youthful vigor I shall walk
In streets of gold and courts above.
—(Rev. 21:27.)

My natural eye with age is dim.
But, oh, how keen the inner sight!
The eye of faith, undimmed and bright,
Is seeing Him, my soul's delight.
(Heb. 11:27.)

My natural hearing is impaired,
And many sounds ne'er greet mine ear,
But whispering to my heart a Voice
Is always heard, in accents clear.—John 10:27)

The "outer man" with years is worn,
And ready to lie down—and sleep.
The "inner man", who lived for God,
A glorious harvest soon shall reap.
(Gal. 6:8, 9.)

P. S.—I'll meet you on "the street of gold"
Where we'll be young and ne'er grow old—C.E.B.
—Selected by Mrs. Diadama McLeod.