

# 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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### HOLINESS MAKES FOR HAPPINESS HERE

Joseph H. Smith

With no change in our circumstances it is quite possible for us to be happy in this "vale of tears". "The curse that is on the ground for the sinfulness of the race is not yet lifted for us during this era of probation. And yet we may be blest while we grapple with its thorns and thistles, and get our bread by "the sweat of our brow".

The sentence of death standing against fallen man is not suspended for us who are Christians, but as others, "dying we do die". Nevertheless the well of water within us keeps springing up with joy of a life that can never die; and the hope of our resurrection hereafter delivers us from the fear of dying here.

Consequences, if not penalties, of our own and other's sins, may leave us with poverty, a season, and (3) they are themselves pain and perplexity: for "we also ourselves which have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of our bodies", and yet in all these things we are more than conquerors. For (1) They do not reach the hidden source of our inmost life, (2) they are but for a season, and they are themselves harnessed to God's plan of Redemption for us so that they work together for good to us that love God. So as James bids us, we inventory even our trials in the Joy column of our assets, and as Paul bids us: "we glory in tribulation also".

This Joy of the Kingdom is as essential as the Righteousness and Peace. Happiness is a feature of Holiness. We will be glad if we are good. Much emphasis is laid upon this in Scripture. We are enjoined, "though sorrowful, to be always rejoicing", commanded to "Rejoice in the Lord alway"; and this mandate strengthened thus: "again I say rejoice!" And together with our "praying without ceasing", and our "giving thanks in everything", we find there is nestled in the pleasure and privilege of "Rejoicing evermore". On the highway of Holiness as shown in Isaiah 35 the ransomed of the Lord are seen to come to Zion with song and everlasting joy upon their heads, and to obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing flee away".

God is cleared of all the infidel's charges against him for allowing suffering, and misery among his creatures here, if it can be shown that in spite of all the suffering and sorrows that exist, he has made it possible for men to be happy here.

If such a master in Science as Edison has never been able to find a happy man; and confesses to his own ignorance of anything about Immortality; and if Christians of all ages, at martyr's stakes and in prison, well as in the common hum drum of life with the afflictions that are common to man, have demonstrated the possibility of a happy, joyous and triumphant life; and this too in full view of their own mor-

talities, and in a well grounded hope of their resurrection, then it follows that faith outstrips Science or Philosophy in solving the problems of human life. Saints have proven that there is happiness in holy living.

There is a counting room, or laboratory, or demonstration chamber somewhere, in which the man of faith, though groaning in his earthly tabernacle, is able to weigh his affliction as "light", and time as "but for a moment", and demonstrate that it "worketh a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". At least three apostles concur in this reckoning and estimate of trials and sorrows, James 1: 2, 3 bids us "Count it all joy": for "the trying of your faith worketh patience."

First Peter 1: 6, 7, tells us: "That the heavy trial is that our faith might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ". Paul, Romans 5:3 witnesses that "tribulation worketh patience, experience and hope", and all this is sustained by the "love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost". Even the chastening rod in our heavenly Father's hand advances our souls in what we love most and live for.

And besides this triumph over the afflictions that are common to man, and the trials that are peculiar to Christians the truly sanctified Christian has abiding sources of happiness here to which other men are strangers. And this quest of pleasure which vents itself in joy rides, movie pictures shows, dance halls, reveling, drunkenness etc.; indulgences, as well as in wealth and world round touring and a hundred other disappointing pursuits, are but the cry of man's soul for a happiness for which only human nature is capable, and which Christianity alone can supply—happiness in God.

We were made for God. And as a flower cannot bloom but in the light, and fruit ripen only in the sunshine, and as a bird cannot be happy but in the air, or a fish but in the water, so neither can a man or woman be happy but in God.

Here are three elements of the positive happiness which the experience of holiness affords:

First, it is the happiness of Harmony.

Second, it is the happiness of fellowship.

Third, it is happiness of anticipation.

Holiness results in acquiescence in God's permissive will, and obedience to his required will, and thus rids the life of all friction, and harmonizes us with our lot, so that we are in agreement with Providence, and in accord with righteousness. This ends the distress of discord.

Again, as the law of adhesion will draw polished surfaces together when every atom of dust is removed, so when all sin is cleansed from the soul, God and that soul come together into an indissoluble union, and a resultant fellowship. Thus the social nature of man meets its highest complement and satisfaction. And this is bliss—of which marital felicity is but a figure.

And to piece out the shortage of earth's satisfaction, and to supply joy unspeakable in

midst of life's vexations, hope is the borrowed faculty of the soul. And hope is fully assured in the state of perfect holiness. The hope of eternal life and immortality; the hope of beholding God; the hope of reunion with loved ones both here, and with saints of all ages. The hope of reward of life's labors and the hope of reigning forever with him who is the fountain of all our joys.

We repeat, the experience of holiness assures such happiness here. This is the joy of the Lord. And "the joy of the Lord is our strength".

Let us who profess holiness insist on being happy!—*The Christian Witness.*

### THE SECRET OF DIVINE POWER

The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men is the source of all divine power, but this power becomes effective only through communion with God, and faith in the promises. Only as God's people tarry alone with Him do they learn this secret of spiritual power. Life's cares and responsibilities tend to harden the heart and make it indifferent to the things of God. No mature Christian can long remain a worthy example of spiritual life and Christlikeness who is not often found alone with God in secret communion and prayer. Many of the sad failures of life are due to the fact that the spiritual life has been weakened through lack of communion with God; and when suddenly attacked by the enemy the soul has not had sufficient power of resistance to overcome the temptation.

The lack of revivals in many places is due primarily to the little concern manifested for the salvation of souls among the professed followers of Christ. That abounding love for the lost which was so manifest in the earthly life of Jesus can be imparted to His followers only through spiritual communion with Him. A return to wrestling, agonizing, intercessory prayer is always marked by fresh outpourings of the Spirit in revival power.

But deeper than this even is the true source of secret communion with our Lord, which is found only in the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. This love is strengthened and increased by communion and prayer; but failing in this, our love first waxes lukewarm and then cold. Persistent lack of prayer and spiritual devotion has its ultimate source in hearts whose love to their Lord has grown cold. We are living in perilous times, when the gospel of Christ is being attacked from many quarters; and it is incumbent upon every Christian to tarry in the intensity of his Lord until his love burns with divine intensity for the salvation of the lost, and for a deeper and richer fellowship with Christ through grace.—*Herald of Holiness.*

"Apostasy comes first in faith; then in conduct."—*The Wesleyan Methodist.*

Shas Burt, April 30