

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 PURE IN HEART

Rev. S. A. Baker

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matt. 5:8.

Sanctification is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer is freed from sin and made holy in heart and life subsequent to regeneration.

This blessing is "the pearl of great price." Those who obtain it get the "peace which passeth understanding, and joy unspeakable, and full of glory," and the sanctified frequently shout Glory! It is a manifold blessing which meets our every need. "It filleth all in all" who obtain it. It grows upon us as we study its many phases.

The fundamental phase is heart purity. The cleansing of the heart and the baptism with the Holy Spirit are coetaneously and instantaneously received. The Apostle Peter makes this statement in Acts 15:8-9. "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us: And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."

Many seem to look upon the beautitudes as impossible to realize in actual experience, but as we under the guidance of the Holy Spirit seek to enter "the secret place of the most High, that we may abide under the shadow of the Almighty," Ps. 91:1. And having "liberty" to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh; Heb. 10:19-20, we pass over this spiritual pathway to reach heart purity.

1st, we realize our spiritual poverty; 2nd, we mourn over it; 3rd, we become meek, submissive, compliant, yielding; 4th, we hunger and thirst after righteousness, hunger for wealth, preference and worldly pleasure has ceased. 5th, we become merciful to a degree that we never knew before. What tenderness, what gentleness pervades the whole being. The longing for a holy heart becomes a burning passion. At this point in our pursuit of heart purity we gladly comply with the whole will of God revealed to us, regarding the past, the present, and the future.

Then comes our consecration, laying upon God's altar our time, possessions every redeemed power, "presenting unto Him our bodies a living sacrifice wholly acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service, and to be no longer conformed to the world." Rom. 12:1.

When our consecration is complete, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Glory! Thus we become: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." Pet. 1:2.

Heart purity obtained and retained are

essential to clear spiritual vision. "They shall see God." The mists of uncertainty regarding our personal salvation are cleared away, we are no longer slaves of our circumstances, they are changed into opportunities and the hardest of them are turned into means of grace and discipline and take their place among the "all things" that work together for our good.

The standard of life given by our Lord is Christian perfection. The nature of the perfection required can be easily found by the honest seeker after truth by a prayerful study of this chapter.

It is a noble life, worthy of the regenerated and sanctified children of God. The first feature of this life is that of peace makers. James says: "The wisdom which is from above, is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without (wrangling) partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

But our Lord immediately follows with the intimation that persecution accompanies this standard of life. Paul says: All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." We accept this blessed standard of life with the full understanding that persecution from some source and in some form will come to us. But when this comes, there is a wonderful joy that makes "exceeding glad" the soul that receives this evidence that they are on the right way. It seems a strange thing to shout over, but all who have got the blessing find it true.

The second feature is that the pure in heart are a preserving power. "Ye are the salt of the earth." It will not be known until the great judgment day, the real preserving effect of holiness literature, songs, sermons, testimonies, and the daily life upon the church and the world.

The third feature is that of light. "Ye are the light of the world." It is a well known fact that every wholly sanctified person becomes unavoidably conspicuous, both in the church and in the world, and we would do well to heed the admonition: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." The emphasis on the little word "so."

The fourth feature is the recognition of the immutability of the Scriptures. The life of holiness is in perfect harmony with the scriptures without change of a jot or tittle. Holiness based upon human emotions without the Word, is pure fanaticism.

The fifth feature of heart purity or Christian perfection, is a supernatural work of grace and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer, hence the life of holiness within and righteousness within and without exceeds the outward forms of the Scribe and Pharisee.

The sixth feature is that a pure heart cannot harbor unkind feelings for it would become impure as soon as unkind feelings toward others are permitted to enter.

The seventh feature is that of social purity. This is a feature of the life of holiness where the Holy Spirit within gives the believer a perfect control of every appetite and passion of the body which are given of God for pure and holy purposes. Paul says in I. Cor. 9:25-27, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

The eighth feature is that the pure in heart puts away everything that hinders a full fellowship with the Divine Trinity, though it be as dear and serviceable to them as the right eye and right hand, this may apply to personal pleasures or associations.

The ninth feature: They need no oath of confirmation. they say what they mean and mean what they say.

The ninth feature: They need no oath of matter what they suffer.

The tenth feature is that of generosity. Christian giving is one of the leading characteristics of holiness people. The easiest place on earth to raise money for the Lord's work or charitable purposes, is in a holiness meeting.

The eleventh feature is that of generosity for their enemies. It is very easy for them to bless and pray for those who curse and spitefully use them, for they have much practice on this line. The pure in heart believe in and practice these features of Christian perfection.

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Note.—This sermon was printed in the Christian Witness February 15th, 1912, and was written by Rev. S. A. Baker, who passed to his reward July 10th, 1925).

THE MESSAGE OF THE CLOUDS

As I looked on the clouds touched with glory,
I thought of my home in the sky,
Where I'll go when my work here is finished,
When He calls in the sweet by and by.

Chorus—

Forever to be with my Saviour,
Forever to see His dear face,
To dwell with hte ransomed in glory
When eons shall call into space.

Every curve and each point were all tinted,
In the setting sun's glorious rays,
And I thought of the glories of heaven,
As we enter the portals of praise.

And my heart sang a glad hallelujah,
For the wonderful gift of God's love—
Who has taken my soul out of bondage,
And prepared me a home up above.

MRS. WILLIAM STANLEY