

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness
THE ORGAN OF THE
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EDITORIAL

Trials—a means of enlargement to the sanctified.

Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress.—Psa. 4-1.

Just how much the Psalmist knew from actual experience about entire sanctification may be a debatable question, which we will not take time to go into here. Yet he like many other writers of Old Testament times under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did express himself in words which would indicate that they really did possess the experience of holiness of heart. Take for instance the above words: "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress."

I believe that such an experience is peculiar to the sanctified only. "Enlarged in distress." The most that an unsanctified soul will do in time of trial or distress is to hold to what Christian experience that they have gained, and many will not do even that, for in times of testing they will murmur, complain and often find fault with Providence and bitterly criticise other people and lose their hold on God and backslide. Look at the disciples of Jesus before Pentecost. How they shrank from trials, and were afraid of persecution, forsook Jesus and fled, when he was taken by the mob, and went back to their fishing-boats and nets, after Jesus was crucified, notwithstanding Jesus had told them before this that their names were written in Heaven. But note the difference in those same disciples after they had received the baptism with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost. They were persecuted, beaten, cast into prison, many finally were killed, but while they lived they "went everywhere preaching the word in the name of Jesus. They rejoiced in persecution because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His sake—no murmuring or complaining about their hard lot then. Paul and Silas sang praises to God at the midnight hour with bleeding backs and feet made fast in the stocks. But because they were triumphant in their distress the keeper of the prison and all his house were saved, and God enlarged the work and a church was established at Philippi. Many thousands of Christians since that time have suffered hardship, persecution, poverty and martyrdom for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but the more they were per-

cutted the more the work of God was enlarged. When unbelievers saw the triumphant faith of the Christians in their distress, they were convinced of the reality of their profession, until thousands of others would espouse the cause of Christ. And it was said by some one that "The blood of martyrs is the seed of truth."

Yes, a soul that is wholly given up to God and in whom the self life has been crucified, as the Apostle puts it in Gal. 2-20 ("I am crucified with Christ") will really be enlarged by the trials and distresses of life, because he has learned to rely upon God for help and strength. He is like a tree that stands alone unprotected by other trees, but in times of storm and wind its roots become stronger and go deeper and take a firmer hold on the foundation on which it stands. The Psalmist also said, "The righteous shall flourish like the Palm tree." I heard a missionary who had spent many years in India say, that she had seen many trees uprooted by the hurricanes in that country, but that she had never seen it happen to a palm-tree, because their roots go down so deep in the soil. So it seems to me that in these trying times God's people who are in possession of the grace of entire sanctification, ought to learn new lessons about prayer and getting things from God and become stronger in faith, and more serene and calm when under the fire of the enemy. And be able to say with the Psalmist: "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress."

"A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE"

By Mrs. J. A. Owens.

The Scripture text we wish to use as a basis for our remarks is found in the third chapter of Philippians, part of the thirteenth, and fourteenth verses. "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus".

Beloved, we are standing tonight on the rear platform, as it were, of 1933. If Jesus taries until the clock in yonder tower strikes twelve, we will have completed another year in the journey of life. Each passing year with its ever changing courses of events, leaves its imprint stamped indelibly upon our lives.

Each year brings with it, its own peculiar situations to be met, its own problems to be solved, its own battles to be fought, its own victories to be won or lost.

Each year is different. This year which we have so nearly reached the close of, has been different from any previous year. Hence we are different.

In the first place, "we are one year older than we were last year this time, therefore, we ought to be the wiser because of lessons learned." We are happier or sadder because of circumstances. We are weaker or stronger, than can be applied to both the physical and spiritual man. We are poorer or richer, relative to this world's goods. We are progressing in our Christian experience, or we are losing ground spiritually, and perhaps backslidden. What change has this year wrought in you?

At the beginning of each New Year, merchants take "count of stock". They go over their shelves to see what they have on hand in every line of goods, then they carefully balance their books. This is done so as to determine what their profits and losses have been during the year. In

like manner, it would be well for us as God's children, to pause long enough to scan our lives as we lived them during the past year to see whether or not we have been profitable servants. Let us now review the past months and see what a prayerful examination reveals to us. Let us ask ourselves the following questions: Are we conscious of His smile of approval? Do we feel we have done our best according to our several ability? It is true our mistakes and blunders have been numerous, but what has been the motive and purpose of our heart? Have we sought to do all in word, thought or deed, to His honour and glory? Our friends see only the action, God looks on the heart.

Have we endeavoured to obey the dictates and promptings of "His still small voice"? or did we shrink from doing His known will as revealed to us through the Word, and by His Spirit? Did we improve upon the opportunities given us for service? Or did we let them slip by unheeded and fail to do the thing that was meant to be a blessing to us, and in so doing, make us a source of blessing to others?

Have we been faithful to duty toward our God, our church, our home? We need not look to far fields for labour, all around us are tasks to be performed. Have we done the things that lay close at hand or did we sit idle because they seemed so small? Have we carried our share of responsibility in connection with our church? Or did we try to slip our part of the load off on our brother?

Have we been square in our dealings with grace? Would there always be a mid-week prayer meeting if all the church members were as eager to get there as you or I have been?

Did we pay the tenth of our income to God for the furtherance of His Kingdom at home and abroad? or did we rob Him in tithes and offerings, and still expect His blessings and mercy?

Have we been square in our dealings with our fellow-man? or did we do the shady trick and still keep up our profession?

Older Christian, have you had patience and charity for the faltering, unsteady ones or has it been easier to criticize than to bear them up in prayer?

Young Christian, have you ever thought to ask the question, "What would Jesus do," before doing certain things, keeping certain company, or going to certain places? This would be a fine habit for all of our young folk to form. It would safe guard them against many a pit-fall.

What has our prayer life amounted to? Did we pray earnestly for the salvation of the lost? Did we pray one for the other as we are exhorted to do in the Word? Did we ever think to pray for the pastor? or have we been inclined to find fault with him, whereas if we had prayed more for him, he might have been a greater success.

Lastly, has our life in general made a good impression on the unsaved around us? Or have we been a stumbling block? Beloved, as we balance the books together, to take stock of our spiritual possessions, do our results really crown our efforts? Of this one thing we are all aware, that what has been done cannot be undone. Not one word or deed can be recalled. Each question asked will no doubt bring to some one of us a degree of remorse. If such be the case, let us humbly acknowledge the same to God, and to our fellow-man, if needs be, then as the writer of the text suggests, let us forget that which is behind, and reach forth into the New Year with a greater determination to do His will, that in pressing toward the mark, we might attain to the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.