

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. XXXI.

MONCTON, N. B., FEB. 28, 1935

NO. 39

"SPIRITUAL GROWTH"

By Lic. Hazel Owens.

Brother Dow asked me to write an article for the Highway, so will try to put on paper a message I preached to our people here, a few weeks ago, from the text found in II Peter 2:18. "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

This word "grace", is found many times in the Word of God, in connection with man's salvation. No word has any richer meaning. Webster says, its the unmerited favour of God toward men; and in Ephesians 2:5 we read, "by grace ye are saved."

Then too, we cannot keep saved apart from the grace of God. Many times the Christian is tested and tried almost to the breaking point but the words, "My grace is sufficient for thee", encourages his heart, and gives him a new start.

Coming back to our text, those who have already been saved are exhorted to "grow in grace". When the apostle wrote this epistle, he meant the same as though he had said, "Increase in holiness," or "advance in the things of God", or "gain ground spiritually". These terms are identical in their meaning and in our way of thinking, there should be no subject of greater importance, to the child of God, than the one we are trying to deal with. For if our usefulness here in the Master's service, and the degree of glory that shall be ours in Heaven, depends on our growth in grace, then the apostle's exhortation should certainly command our attention, and deeply interest us, as the professed followers of Christ.

Men the world over, are striving for development and aiming at greater heights of attainment in their several spheres. The farmer toils hard, year after year trying to produce better and bigger vegetables and fruits, as well as trying to improve his stock and poultry. The average young person today is not content to be a third or second class teacher, so he or she is willing to study hard, in order to make a higher grade. And so it is with the physician, the musician, the educator, the mechanic, and every other walk and calling in life; to become more efficient is man's constant urge. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if folk would take this same attitude in regards to spiritual things? So many it seems, are content to get along with a small degree of grace in their hearts and so few there are who are really hungering for the deep things of God.

What father or mother is there among us who would not be alarmed if their child failed to grow physically? Are we as much concerned about their spiritual growth? Does our own slow progress startle us any? Looking back over twenty years that we have been endeavouring to serve the Lord, personally we feel that our advancement in the things of Divine grace, has not been what it might have been. We have noted others who have been on the way a short time, whose faith, and power in prayer seem to outdistance us. However, we can see where our determination to do His will is getting stronger,

and our love for Him increasing, so we take courage and press on.

Beloved, its grow, or die; advance or retreat, make headway, or be overcome by our enemies. Sad it is, that so many who seemed to have had a good start on the Christian journey, have failed to get very far, and in time were back in the old paths of sins. This will be true of each one of us if we fail to make good use of the provisions that God has placed at our disposal for our growth.

We would like to mention some things that are necessary to our growth in grace. We have observed that what is true in the natural is true in the spiritual. 1. If we fail to nourish and feed these bodies of ours, they will soon weaken and die. Hence, if we deprive our souls of God's word, and fail to feed on the good things of the Kingdom, starvation is certain.

II. Exercise promotes growth. If a child does not use its limbs, he will never develop muscle, or if an adult should fail to exercise, any one part of their body, that member becomes useless in time. For instance, they tell us if one should tie up an arm, and keep it idle for a certain length of time, then try to use it, they would find it had lost its power to operate. So in spiritual things, there is nothing that will develop our strength, and cause it to grow more than being active for God. Folk who fold their arms, and let the other fellow do it all, never get anywhere spiritually.

III. Then, too, light and warmth are necessary to growth. We never plant flower seeds until warm weather comes, neither do we plant them where it is shady, and away from the rays of the sun. Likewise, we needs must walk in the light God gives us, and keep in the sunshine of His smile, if we want to grow and bring forth fruit.

IV. Invironment has a great deal to do with our spiritual growth. No one ever yet expected to raise a crop of wheat by scattering their seeds on a rock pile. We cannot always help our surroundings, that is, we may be forced to work with the unsaved, or we may have to live with those who are not a help to us spiritually, but the places we choose for pastime, and the company we seek in our leisure moments, have much to do with our growth in grace. We are not to be unfriendly with anyone, yet caution should be taken, especially among our young folk; if we can't lead our friends to Jesus, they are apt to lead us away from Him.

In closing we want to make plain the fact that it is growth "in" grace, not "into" grace. If we could grow into the grace of God, or salvation, there would be no need of the "new birth" and Jesus would never need to have died for us. The same is true with growing into sanctification or holiness of heart. Both works of grace are distinct acts of God. It may take us some time to bring ourselves to the place where we can receive from Him, but when God does the work in our hearts, it is instantaneous and by faith.

Every truly regenerated person shows signs of growth in grace.

God, but the growth is not as rapid as it might be until the heart has been cleansed from the inbeing of sin. Just as a garden is kept back and hindered until the weeds have been pulled up root and branch, so is the life handicapped and kept from being at its best, until sin has been destroyed in the heart.

May God put in our hearts a greater yearning for a deeper and closer walk with Him, so that when this year comes to a close, we may see a marked development in the lives of one another, and even if we don't grow as a church numerically, God helps us each one to become more spiritually minded, and rooted deeper in His love.

GETTING SANCTIFIED BY THE DEATH ROUTE

By Rev. W. Edmund Smith.

It is well that we emphasize the joy of the sanctified life. Sanctimonious looks and tones, self-pitying recitals in the name of religious testimony, dark and gloomy predictions of the future do not recommend the blessing of entire sanctification to those who are pressed down by sorrow and care. Real holiness puts something in a person, a heart that shines out through the countenance and indicates that he or she possesses a peace which does not spring from carnal security, and a joy that is not rooted in material wealth or fleshly indulgences.

The children of the Lord have a right to shout and shine and sing. They give expression to the inflowing of divine love. To those who are not spiritually enlightened it might seem that such a life is a grand picnic, free from temptations trials and testings. To hear them talk how easy it all seems. But the truth is, such a life of joy and victory and satisfaction has back of it an experience of crucifixion and death the spirit of which must be perpetuated all life's journey through.

We must consider the dark side as well as the bright side of this experience and life. Only those who have truly seen the Christian life from Christ's point of view, and have counted the cost and paid the price, can long continue in the way of holiness. Many have a desire for a joyous experience. Who is there that does not want to feel happy? But such a desire may be as selfish as that of the worldling who seeks satisfaction in carnal pleasures. James knew such folks who wanted to get blessed to consume it upon their own lusts. Some go to the altar and consecrate some things and feel better; in fact feel real happy for a time. But they have never caught the real meaning of dying out to carnal self and all that is near and dear to them. This is the way of reproach and shame. The greatest enemies to this experience are those who profess to be Christians but who know nothing about self-crucifixion. The hardest thing a preacher of the Gospel may meet in his death is his Church and people that are worldly although very religious. Or it may be his cultured popular wife,

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