

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

REVIVAL TIME

"Oh Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years." Hab. 3-2.

It has been the custom for our churches to hold revival services during the fall and winter seasons of the year. Of course we have our camp-meetings every summer which are revival times also and many souls are converted, sanctified, and blessed of the Lord in those meetings by the united efforts of all our churches. Then at this time of the year the individual churches begin to think and talk of special meetings again, and these meetings are often fruitful in the salvation of souls. Special evangelistic services held at various times seem to be of divine origin. They are spoken of in the scripture as "Times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." The old folks of years ago used to speak of revivals as "God's time to favor Zion." And if they met with success in their special efforts, it was God's time to favor Zion; but if on the other hand they held special meetings and there were no results, then they said it was not God's time.

They did not seem to realize that God is always ready and wants to save souls, and will save them when they seek Him, and yield their wills to Him. "In the day that you seek Me with all your heart I will be found of you", saith the Lord. We have heard people say sometimes, God WILL NOT send a revival or save people because the church where special effort is being made is not right with him. Now that statement is wrong. It is not because God is unwilling to save. No; He loves souls so much that He will save a sincere believing seeker anywhere, or any time regardless of their surroundings or of men or devils—and this is the reason that some souls do get saved under very unfavorable circumstances. It is because they want Jesus, and like the afflicted woman of old they press through the seeming hindrances and in faith touch the hem of his garment, and they like her are made whole. The basic hindrance to the salvation of any soul is his unbelief. Unbelief hinders the individual from meeting the conditions necessary to salvation. It is said of Jesus that He COULD not do many mighty works in a certain place because of their unbelief. He was willing but they were not ready.

Now it is true also that the church where special effort is being made has very much to do with creating an atmosphere in which souls will seek and find God. To create such an atmosphere the church, or professors of religion must be living up to the standard that the preacher is preaching. It is exceedingly hard for the preach-

er to convince the unsaved and unsanctified of the reality of these experiences unless the Holy Spirit can point to the consistent Godly lives of the Christians as examples of the truth being preached. And if persons profess to be converted or sanctified wholly and are not really enjoying such an experience, it is true that they create an atmosphere of unbelief which makes it very hard for the Holy Spirit to reach the needy ones.

The enemy of souls is ever ready to hold up, and magnify the inconsistencies of professors to discourage others from seeking salvation. Notice the prophet prayed "O Lord revive THY work." In many cases the revival begins with the church or professors of religion. First the prayer spirit must be revived; the saints take on a burden of soul for the unsaved. Second, some who have been seekers after the grace of holiness for a long time perhaps, can be a great help and inspiration to a revival if they will publicly confess their need and pray through to victory. Then there will be need of some confessions on the part of others to God, and to each other for hard things said about each other, or done perhaps. James writes, "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed." In doing these things the church will bring the blessing of God on it. The unsaved will be sure to see the Lord working and blessing the people. The Holy Spirit will use this to convict the needy ones, and an atmosphere of faith will be created in which souls can be born into the Kingdom, and sanctified wholly.

Then of course the preacher must preach not only the practical side of salvation but he must also preach the great doctrinal truths of the Word. He must preach earnestly, and with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven on such subjects as sin, repentance, faith, confession, the witness of the Spirit, Hell, Heaven, consecration, holiness, perfect love, heart cleansing, and the carnal mind. He must preach the Word, and God has promised "My word shall not return to Me void, it shall accomplish that which I please," etc.

"If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." II Chro. 7-14. A genuine revival of salvation will heal many sores, and grievances, and correct troubles in churches and in communities. It will cleanse cesspools of iniquity and vice, it will save lives and characters, and produce happy peaceable hearts and homes. O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

AN INCIDENT OF THE REVIVAL IN WALES

By Gipsy Smith

Religious certainty, is certainty of religion. About two years ago, I was conducting a Revival in the Khondda Valley in South Wales. I could only give nine nights and days just then to the section of the revivals going on at that time, in Wales. But in those nine nights nearly 1,400 people gave themselves to the Lord. It was a wonderful Movement. I sat one morning dealing with my mail in the house of a local magistrate. The house was on the side of one of those lonely Welch Mountains of the Khondda Valley. Below was the smoky town, and on the other side of the Valley, a mountain towered up to the sky. I opened a letter, which read something like

this: Three months ago I heard you preach in (naming the city), and I never had a day's peace since, for the Message you brought revealed to me my sin. He told me of a splendid business, and his beautiful wife and family, and he told of the depth of sin into which he had fallen. I cannot get rid of it, the Message that pierced my soul to the quick, revealed my sin. Do you think there is any hope for me? Do you think that God will have mercy on me?" I laid the letter down and looked out the window. The snow was falling, rhythmically, practically falling and I watched it dancing before my window. I watched it until I thought I saw a little snowflake pause midway, and then I thought I heard it speak to that mighty mountain in front of me, and I thought the little snowflake said to the mountain, "O mountain, I am only a little snowflake, I want a place to rest. If I fall can you bear me?" Then I thought that old mountain groaned out of its eternal depths, and said, "Little snowflake I have my roots in God, fall on me and see." And then I opened my little parable to my friend, one hundred miles away, and waited, and later a letter came, which said, "Thank God, I am on the mountain, and the mountain bears me." Can a mountain bear a snowflake? Can an ocean bear a bubble? Venture on Him, He made the snowflake and the mountain and the ocean, and he made you, and died for you, and loves you to the breaking point of every fetter, and the snapping of every chain. And only those who suffer know how to comfort and it is only because Jesus suffered, that He can succor those who pass through, pain and tears, and darkness, and loneliness, and when you have received the comfort you are able to sing,

I have found a joy in sorrow,

A sweet balm for pain,

A beautiful tomorrow,

Of sunshine after rain.

If it had not been for a certain experience of George Matheson's, that was born out of grief, and disappointment, out of the breaking of the alabaster box of his own ambition, and his castles in the air, and all that he had hoped, and fancied. It was born when the physician put his hands on his shoulders and looked him in the face, and said, If there is any face you want to see again, go and see it quickly. Brace up, and be a man. Hold yourself together, for your sight is nearly gone. He went out, wrote to her, whose face he wanted to see, and told her, and she cut him adrift forever. Then he sat down to bear his grief, and tears of disappointment and out of the Gethsemane and from the Calvary of his grief, and broken heart, he wrote that well known hymn, beginning with the lines—

"O love that will not let me go,

I rest my weary soul on thee."

The world has got that comforting message out of a heart break and agony and tragedy of a human soul.—Selected.

BURDENS MAY BECOME BRIDGES

An ant was carrying home a bit of straw, and came to a crack in the rock it was crossing. The little ant tried in different ways to get its burden across, and finally decided on a plan. It put one end of the straw down at the edge of the crack and then pushed it till it reached the other side, then walked across on its burden, making it a bridge.

All the burdens that we bear may in time become bridges which will carry us over to the other side if we bear them faithfully for Christ.

—Unknown.