

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—Isaiah 40:3-8

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THE RESULTS OF ONE DAY'S PRAYER

By Charles G. Finney

"As the excitement increased on the subject of slavery, Mr. Leavitt, the publisher, espoused the cause of the slave, and advocated it in the New York Evangelist. I watched the discussion with a good deal of attention and anxiety, and when I was about to leave on a sea voyage I admonished Mr. Leavitt to be careful and not go too fast in the discussion of the anti-slavery question, lest he should destroy his paper.

"On my homeward passage my mind became exceedingly exercised on the question of revivals. I feared that they would decline throughout the country. I feared that the opposition which had been made to them had grieved the Holy Spirit. My own health, it appeared to me, had nearly or quite broken down; and I knew of no other evangelist who would take the field and aid pastors in revival work. This view of the subject distressed me so much that one day I found myself unable to rest. My soul was in an utter agony. I spent almost the entire day in prayer in my stateroom, or walking the deck in intense agony, in view of the state of things. In fact, I felt crushed with the burden that was on my soul. There was no one on board to whom I could open my mind or say a word.

It was the spirit of prayer that was upon me; that which I had often before experienced in kind but perhaps never before to such a degree for so long a time. I besought the Lord to go on with His work and to provide Himself with such instrumentalities as were necessary. It was a long summer day in the early part of July. After a day of unspeakable wrestling and agony in my soul, at night the subject cleared up to my mind. The Spirit led me to believe that all would come out right, and that God had yet a work for me to do, that I might be at rest, that the Lord would go forward with His work and give me strength to take any part in it that He desired. But I had not the least idea what the course of His providence would be.

"On arriving at New York I found, as I have said, the mob excitement, on the subject of slavery, very intense. I remained but a day or two in New York, and went into the country, to the place where my family were spending the summer. On my return to New York in the fall, Mr. Leavitt came to me and said, 'Brother Finney, I have ruined the Evangelist. I have not been as prudent as you cautioned me to be, and I have gone so far ahead of public intelligence and feeling on the subject that my subscription list is rapidly failing; and we shall not be able to continue its publication beyond the first of January, unless you can do something to bring the paper back to public favor again.'

"I told him my health was such that I did not know what I could do, but I would make

it a subject of prayer. He said if I could write a series of articles on revivals he had no doubt it would restore the paper immediately to public favor. After considering it a day or two, I proposed to preach a course of lectures to my people on revivals of religion which he might report for his paper. He caught at this at once. Says he, 'That is the very thing;' and in the next number of his paper he advertised the course of lectures.

"This had the effect he desired, and he soon after told me that the subscription list was very rapidly increasing.

"I began the course of lectures immediately and continued them through the winter, preaching one each week. Mr. Leavitt could not write shorthand, but would sit and take notes, adridging what he wrote in such a way that he could understand it himself. The next day he would sit down and fill out his notes and send them to the press.

"These lectures were afterward published in a book and called, 'Finney's Lectures on Revivals.' Twelve thousand copies of them were sold as fast as they could be printed. And here, for the glory of Christ, I would say that they have been reprinted in England, they were translated into Welsh, into French and, I believe, into German. They were very extensively circulated throughout Europe and the colonies of Great Britain. They were, I presume, to be found wherever the English language is spoken. After they had been printed in Welsh, the Congregational ministers of the Principality of Wales at one of their public meetings appointed a committee to inform me of the great revival that had resulted from the translation of those lectures into the Welsh language. This they did by letter. One publisher in London informed me that his father had published eighty thousand volumes of them. These revival lectures, meager as was the report of them, and feeble as they were in themselves, have been instrumental, as I have learned, in promoting revivals in England, Scotland, and Wales, in various parts of Europe, in Canada East and West, in Nova Scotia, and in some of the islands of the sea.

"In England and Scotland I have often been refreshed by meeting with ministers and laymen in great numbers who had been converted, directly or indirectly, through the instrumentality of those lectures. I recollect the last time that I was abroad. One evening three very prominent ministers of the gospel introduced themselves to me after the sermon, and said that when they were in college they got hold of my revival lectures, which had resulted in their becoming ministers. I found persons in England, in all different denominations, who had not only read those revival lectures but had been greatly blessed in reading them. When they were first published in the New York Evangelist the reading of them resulted in revivals of religion in multitudes of places throughout the country.

"But this was not of man's wisdom. Let the

reader remember that on that long day of agony and prayer at sea, that God would do something to forward the work of revivals, and enable me, if He desired to do it, to take such a course as to help forward the work. I felt certain then that my prayers would be answered; and that I have regarded all that I have since been able to accomplish as, in a very important sense, an answer to the prayers of that day. The Lord pressed my soul in prayer until I was enabled to prevail. Through the infinite riches of grace in Christ Jesus I have been many years witnessing the wonderful results of that day of wrestling with God. In answer to that day's agony He has continued to give me the spirit of prayer."—From Finney's Revival Lectures.

THE HAPPY MAN

Was born in the City of Regeneration, in the parish of Repentance-unto-Life; was educated in the school of Perseverance, worked at the trade of Diligence, and sometimes performed acts of Self-denial; he is clothed in the plain garb of Humility, and has a better suit to appear in at court, called the robe of Christ's Righteousness. He breakfasts every morning on Spiritual Prayer, and sups every evening on the same; he has meat to eat which the world knows nothing of, and his drink is the "Sincere milk of the word." He has a large estate in the country of Christian Contentment, and his delightful mansion is called the House of Prayer. His associates are the excellent of the earth, such as those who excel in virtue and piety; and where truth inhabits, there is he. The law of kindness is written on his lips, and the dictates of truth on his tongue. His breast is fortified with the armor of Christ's Righteousness, and in his heart there is no guile. Faith bears a shield before him, while Mercy presides at his right hand, and Justice at his left. Should darkness at any time envelop his goings, God's law is a lamp unto his paths, and none of his steps shall slide. Thus he pursues the noiseless tenor of his way through the wilderness of this world, to the celestial Canaan, where only righteous men inhabit, and where the spirits of just men made perfect are ever with the Lord. In a word, he has sin under his feet, the world behind his back, grace in his heart, heaven in his eyes, and a crown of glory over his head. Happy is the life of such a man, and happy is his death. To attain which, redeem your time, love Christ. "Mark the pervertly, persevere to the end, live holy, die daily, watch your heart, guard your senses, redeem your time, live Christ. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."—The Sky Pilot.

Take into your new sphere of labor . . . that simple charm (love) and your lifework must succeed. You can take nothing greater, yon need take nothing less.—Drummond.