

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. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., AUG. 31, 1938

N 54

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Colonel Samuel Brengle, D. D.

Just before His ascension Jesus met His disciples for the last time, and repeated His command that they should "not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father," and reiterated His promise that they should be "baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." He added, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

They wanted power, and He assured them that they should have it, but said nothing of its nature, nor the work and activities into which it would thrust them, and for which it would equip them, beyond the fact that they should be witnesses unto Him "in Jerusalem and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

And then Jesus left them. Earth lost its power to hold Him, and while they beheld Him He began to ascend; a cloud bent low from heaven, receiving Him out of sight, and they were left alone, with His promise of power ringing in their ears.

For ten days they waited, not listlessly, but eagerly, as a maid for her mistress, or a servant for his master, who is expected to come at any moment. On the Day of Pentecost, at their early morning prayer meeting, when they were all present, the windows of heaven were opened, and such a blessing as they could not contain was poured out upon them. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."

This was the inaugural day of the Church of God: the dawn of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit; the beginning of the days of power.

In the morning of that day there were only a few Christians in the world; the New Testament was not written, and it is doubtful if they had among them all a copy of the Old Testament; they had no church buildings, no colleges, no religious books and papers; they were poor and despised, unlearned and ignorant; but before night they had enrolled 3,000 converts from among those who a few weeks before had crucified their Lord, and they had aroused and filled all Jerusalem with amazement.

What was the secret? Power. What was the secret? God the Holy Ghost. He had come, and this work was His work, and they were His instruments.

When Jesus came a body was prepared for Him, and through that body He wrought His wondrous works; but when the other Comforter comes He takes possession of those bodies that are freely and fully presented to Him, and He touches their lips with grace; He shines peacefully and gloriously on their faces; He flashes beams of pity and compas-

sion and heavenly affection from their eyes; He kindles a fire of love in their hearts, and lights the flame of truth in their minds. They become His temple, and their hearts are a holy of holies in which His blessed presence ever abides, and from that central citadel He works, enduing the man who has received Him with power.

If you ask how the Holy Spirit can dwell within us and work through us without destroying our personality, I cannot tell. How can the electric current fill and transform a dead wire into a live one, which you dare not touch? How can a magnetic current fill a piece of steel and transform it into a mighty force which by its touch can raise tons of iron, as a child would lift a feather? How can fire dwell in a piece of iron until its very appearance is that of fire, and it becomes a firebrand? I cannot tell.

Now what fire and electricity and magnetism do in iron and steel the Holy Spirit does in the spirits of men who believe on Jesus; follow Him wholly, and trust Him intelligently. He dwells in them, and inspires them, till they are all alive with the very life of God.

The head of some great business enterprise was making thousands of dollars every year, but when the Holy Ghost filled him, money lost its power over him. He still retained his position, and made vast sums, but, as a steward of the Lord, he poured it into God's work, and has been doing so for more than thirty years.

A popular lad received the fiery baptism, and went to his baseball team and said, "Boys, you swear, and I am now a Christian, and I cannot play with you any more!" And God made him the wonder of all his old friends and a happy winner of souls.

A fashionable woman likewise received the baptism, and God gave her power to break away from her worldly set and surroundings, live wholly for Him, and wield an influence that girdled the globe.

I knew a doctor, who had used tobacco for over sixty years, delivered from the abnormal appetite instantly through sanctification of the Spirit. I knew an old man, who had been a drunkard for over fifty years, similarly delivered. I knew a young man, the slave of a vicious habit of the flesh, who was set free at once by the fiery baptism. The electric current cannot transform the dead wire into a live one quicker than the Holy Spirit can flood a soul with light and love, destroy the carnal mind, and fill a man with power over all sin.

Many people in these days deny that there is any devil. They say there is only evil. Not only so—they do not believe there is a personal God, but say there is only good. But the day comes with the Holy Spirit's entrance, and then God is intimately known and the devil is discovered. And as he assailed Jesus after this baptism with the Spirit,

so he does today all who receive the Holy Ghost. He comes as an angel of light to deceive, and as a roaring lion to devour and overcome with fear, but the soul filled with the Spirit outwits the devil and, clad in the whole armor of God, overcomes the old enemy.

What is God's purpose for all His children? It is that they might have power over all the power of the enemy. Power to do the will of God patiently and effectively, with naturalness and ease, or to suffer the will of God with patience and good cheer, comes with this blessed baptism. It is power for service or sacrifice, according to God's will. Have you this power? If not, it is for you. Yield yourself fully to Christ just now, and if you ask in faith, you shall receive.—The Pentecostal Herald.

EULOGY OF THE SCRIPTURES

General Chiang of China

The wonderful doctrines of the Scriptures are all given by the inspiration of God. They are profound, rich, far-reaching, and persuasive. Their instruction is austere, and their prohibitions authoritative. The exalted virtue and important principles of the Book link together heaven and humanity. They lead men to repentance and regeneration, so that they slough off the devil and regain the pristine truth of their being. It is stern toward evil and proffers rewards to goodness. Warning and encouragement are mingled in its teaching. The abstruse is made manifest, the hidden clear, but to fathom God's power is like attempting to empty the sea with a scallop shell. His power and wisdom are beyond man's comprehension, and such as truly to lead mankind to put their trust in the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ and obtain forgiveness of sins, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and the adoption of sons of God. Thus they become a heavenly people; for the Book is the great canon of heaven and earth.

I reverently offer this hymn of praise:

"The Book is the window of the soul; the Word is sent from God;
It regenerates mankind and recreates heaven and earth.
God's energy is universal; His spiritual power encircles all things,
His words are man's ensign, a fountain of wisdom.
By grace we are saved; through faith we obtain life.
They are perfectly good, perfectly beautiful, without end, without limit;
One reads them a hundred times without wearying, and ponders thrice their mystic meaning;
The heart receives, the spirit comprehends them—the wonderful but natural law!"
—From the "American Bible Society Record."

Mrs. Geo. Redie, Feb. 38