

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., FEBRUARY 15, 1941

No. 64

ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION BY FAITH

## A Reply to a Recent Letter

By Henry Brockett

In a recent issue of a Christian periodical, a correspondent asked the following question, "Is it possible so to appropriate by faith the statement of Romans 6:6, 'that our old man is crucified with him,' that one arrives by faith at a stage in Christian experience where the heart is completely and permanently cleansed and all future sin makes its approach from without?"

The reply contained the following statement.

"There is no undertaking by God that the lusts of the flesh shall cease to exist in any of His children, or that any measure of faith will expel them from the heart, but there is the gracious assurance that since the Spirit of God dwells in us 'we may not do the things that we would,' that is, we are not under necessity to fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (italics mine).

The above denial of the truth of entire sanctification by faith calls for serious examination in the light of God's Word.

What are "the lusts (or desires) of the flesh?" They are evil, sinful desires, the fruit of the activity of indwelling sin within the heart. This evil fruit is manifested in the following "works of the flesh:" "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like" (Gal. 5:19-21).

What a vile catalogue indeed!

Now, in the reply quoted above, it is denied that these sinful desires—these "lusts of the flesh"—can ever be expelled from the heart (presumably the writer means in this life), or that God has undertaken to do this work of heart purification from sin. This means, therefore, that a Christian, in this life, can never have a heart truly cleansed and freed from all sin. These sinful desires can only be repressed, never removed. Is this all that our Lord meant when He said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:26)? We reply, "A thousand times 'No.'"

Yet us now turn to God's Word for answers to the following questions:

### 1. What is Entire Sanctification?

On the basis of the cross and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has made full provision for a mighty twofold work of grace to be accomplished in the hearts of those who are already His believing, obedient children. This twofold gift of God's grace involves: 1. A freeing from sin, and 2. A filling with the Spirit. Here are a few scriptural proofs:

#### 1. Freeing from Sin.

"I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh" (Ezek. 36:26)).

"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, so that we should no longer be in bondage to sin" (Romans 6:6, R. V.)

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people" (Titus 2:14).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

In the face of the above positive Scriptures is not the assertion that the believers' hearts can never be freed from "the lusts of the flesh" a denial of God's own promises? Are not the "lusts of the flesh" all summed up in one word, "unrighteousness?" Are not those "lusts" included, therefore, in the "all unrighteousness" from which God has solemnly undertaken to cleanse our hearts? Who dare deny this in the face of I. John 1:9? If we do, are we not impugning the very truthfulness and faithfulness of God Himself?

#### 2. Filling with the Spirit.

"Christ \*\*\* being made a curse for us \*\*\* that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal. 3:13-14).

"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matt. 3:11).

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The glorious gift of the infilling of the Holy Spirit which believers received at Pentecost when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire can also be received by believers today. God undertakes not only to set His children free from sin but also to fill them with His Spirit. The blessed Spirit of Christ will come as the refining fire of God, purifying the heart from sin (Acts 15:8-9), and will take full possession of the obedient believer and abide as the Spirit of holiness, love and peace.

This is the precious blessing of entire sanctification. It is a second work of grace subsequent to regeneration.

### 2. For Whom is Entire Sanctification?

God calls the unsaved to repentance and faith in Christ; He calls those who are already His children by faith in Christ to holiness. It is to believers, not unsaved sinners, that Paul writes, "This is the will of God, your sanctification;" "God hath called us to holiness;" and "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly ("through and through")" (I. Thess. 4:3, 7; 5:23). What a glorious call from our loving heavenly Father! To respond wholly to that call brings fullness of blessing into the life. Alas, how many Christians there are who are dissatisfied in soul, divided in heart, defeated often by sin and devoid of power to witness effectively for Christ. Dear Christian reader, if this should be your heart experience may I say most definitely but very lovingly, "There is something radically wrong with you. God has something infinitely better for you than such a poor experience as that.

Thank God there is a remedy. You need to know the secret of entire sanctification; then the joy bells will ring in your heart."

Let us now consider how we enter into this precious secret of God.

### 3. Entire Sanctification: How Obtained and Retained

1. How obtained. There is only one way to receive God's gifts of grace, namely, by faith. The writer quoted above denied that the "lusts of the flesh" could be removed from the heart "by any amount of faith. But our Lord said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence \* \* \*, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matt. 17:2).

Hallelujah! Is not sin within the heart just like a "mountain," utterly immovable by any power of our own? But "this mountain" shall remove through faith. On the ground of God's own exceeding precious promises before quoted, He will, in response to the faith of His repentant, wholly yielded, believing child, cleanse (instantaneously) the heart from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) and fill (instantaneously) with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

"Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,

And looks to that alone;

Laughs at impossibilities,

And cries, 'It shall be done.'"

2. How retained. The Act of faith and obedience for entire sanctification must be followed by an attitude of soul. We must walk "in the light" and "in the Spirit," then the precious blood that made us clean will keep us clean and we shall prove the deep reality of that verse, "If we walk (continuously) in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Hallelujah!—The Flame (England).

### ANDREW MURRAY'S OWN FAMILY

Andrew Murray evidently lived a holy life before his children. Eleven of his children grew to adult life. Five of the six sons became ministers of the gospel, and four of the daughters became ministers' wives. Even the second generation made a good showing! Ten grandsons became ministers and thirteen became missionaries! That gave evidence of an unusual prayer power and devotion of life to the Lord on the part of Andrew Murray.—Christian Victory.

Forty-six publishers used the uncopyrighted "In His Steps." Eighteen millions are in circulation at home and abroad, and only one publisher has ever paid Dr. Sheldon any royalty. He is in good health at his home at Topeka, Kansas, enjoying his eighty-third year.—Herald of Holiness.

Mr Donald Tedlie, Feb 41