

## WATCH THE BEGINNING

By Rev. E. E. Shelhamer

No one is overcome and led into sin all at once. It is impossible for the devil to enslave us without our consent. It is this inward consent to the suggestion without, that gives Satan the advantage.

There are four steps to a man's downfall, but they are successive and the three final ones cannot be overtaken until the first is taken. Here they are:—1. Attention. 2. Consideration. 3. Gratification. 4. Humiliation.

**Attention:** This is the beginning. Mother Eve and David were not responsible for the fact that their attention was called to a certain object unless they ought to have been elsewhere at the time. Eve was perfectly innocent when approached by the tempter. David, on the other hand, should have been at the head of the army fighting the battles of the Lord. But, "he tarried at Jerusalem." It was while here, being idle and eating rich dinners, that he saw Bathsheba. Even now he could and should have refused to look the second time. The cleanest saint may be brought face to face at any moment with an evil suggestion. He cannot help it. But, thank God, he need not take the next step and "consider" the proposition. This is the great battleground. The difference between Joseph and David was that the former turned on his heel and "got him out," while the latter paused, pondered, then plunged! The one came off unsullied and victorious, while the other went down in defeat, disgrace and despair. Yes, watch the beginnings.

1. The beginnings of **Estrangement**. Someone has misunderstood and mistreated you. Now Satan is on hand to magnify it and cause you to pull off in spirit from the other party. And if you are not watchful and prayerful it will not be long until you will in return magnify his faults and the gulf of separation will widen exceedingly.

2. The beginning of **Self-Sufficiency**. Has God been pleased to use you? Then sink a little lower at His feet and give Him praise. But if you dare to think of yourself as being above the average, pride lurketh at the door. It is so easy to call attention to your achievements and take satisfaction therein. Pride is so subtle that you may declare it is gone when, behold! you are full of it. One proof that it is there is when you cannot keep still if your opinion is assailed and ridiculed. Can you hold your views on Tongues, Baptism, Feet-washing, Second Coming, Church Government, etc.? If so, it is a good sign you are well saved.

3. The Beginnings of **Compromise**. This may pertain to a dozen things, but we now refer to one's attire. Parents who were once plain can now put on, or take off until one would hardly know them. And their children are a sight! I have stopped blaming the silly girl for the way she paints her face, plucks her eyebrows, bobs and parts her hair like a boy, and goes half naked. It all started back there when she was an innocent child and the mother thought she looked "so cute" to appear like other children. Parents, don't you know that not only you, but your little ones, are called to be a "peculiar people, zealous of good works?" God hates nakedness. Listen! "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon." And remember, these priests were men who wore long robes to their ankles. Hence not even the calves of their legs would be seen. Now if God Almighty was so parti-

cular about His priests, how must He disdain women (some lady evangelists and singers) whose dresses are entirely too tight and short at both top and bottom? O how terrible when pastors and evangelists defend their wives and daughters in these things. No marvel they dare not "cry aloud and spare not." Their mouths are stopped. "Like priests, like people." Call me an extremist if you wish; I will take my stand with the good old Book. "The women shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."—Deut. 22:5.—Holness Era.

## SOME GREAT WORDS

Repentance—a change of mind; new mind about God.

Conversion—a change of life; new life for God.

Regeneration—a change of nature; new heart for God.

Justification—a change of state; new standing for God.

Adoption—a change of family; new relationship toward God.

Sanctification—a change of service; separation unto God.

Glorification—a change of place; new condition with God.—D. L. Moody.

## IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD

That a man without enemies is nobody.

That God loves a fighter,—in a good cause.

That lofty ideals often live in a lowly place.

That character is what a man is,—in the dark.

That a man is known by the company he does **not** keep.

That there is a difference between spiritual progress and a religious hurrah.

That people who succeed in these days are like postage stamps,—they stick till they get there.

That a Christian who waits for an introduction to a stranger in the church service is too "nice" for anything.—Sel.

## A HOLY MINISTRY

Oh, if we only had a holy ministry, it would be far more important than an educated ministry. If the ministry were holy enough, they would do without so much education.

God forbid that I should undervalue an educated minister. Let ministers be educated as well as they can, the more the better, if they are only holy enough.

It is all a farce to suppose that a literary ministry can convert the world. Let the ministry have the spirit of prayer, let the baptism of the Holy Ghost be upon them, and they will spread the gospel. Only let Christians live as they ought, and the church would shake the world. If Christians in New York would do it, the report would soon fill every ship that leaves the port, and waft the news on every wind, till the earth was full of excitement and inquiry, and conversions would multiply like the drops of morning dew.

Suppose you were to give up your business, and devote yourselves entirely to the work of extending the gospel. The church once did so, and you know what followed. When that little band in Jerusalem gave up their business and spent their time in the work of the Lord, salvation spread like a wave.—Charles G. Finney.

## Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

## HOW WAR PROHIBITION WOULD AID EFFICIENCY

1. It would stop the colossal waste of more than \$4,000,000,000 annually spent for liquors. This sum invested in Defense Stamps and Bonds would pay for the building of 10 capital ships, 100 large destroyers, and 5,000 four-motored bombing planes every year!

2. It would prevent the diversion of important food materials into liquor making.

3. It would stop the waste of transportation facilities in our own country, and to foreign ports at a time when every square foot of space is desperately needed for food and war materials for ourselves and our allies.

4. It would advance the efficiency of our armed forces by removing the deteriorating effect of liquor selling within and without our military camps.

5. It would prevent the further alcoholic deterioration of our man-power in industry, and thus increase the production of war materials.

6. It would be a potent factor in the prevention of industrial accidents about which national leaders are greatly concerned; it will also prevent loss of life through highway accidents, of which not less than 25% are due to drinking drivers and pedestrians.

7. It would, to an immeasurable degree, stop alcohol's blighting effects upon the brains and bodies of large numbers of American citizens, when the clearest brains and strongest bodies are needed to help America win.

## What About Enforcement?

While War Prohibition presupposes proper enforcement of the law, we are fully aware of the danger of entrusting the enforcement of such law to political party administrations that do not believe in it. However, the nations at war must trust their governments. What reason is there to assume that our government would be so recreant to its trust as to betray the people and the Congress, and treasonably sabotage such an efficiency measure?

Nor will we be frightened by the usual "boogies" created by the liquor interests; gangsterism which can occur only when the public officials sell out to the racketeers; lawlessness, which can grow dangerous only when enforcement officials abdicate. The absurd "wet" argument that laws create lawlessness, can never again be foisted upon the American people.

An industry, the liquor traffic hasn't a leg to stand on. If manufacturers can, by war priorities, be stopped from making useful and needful commodities, why can't the makers and purveyors of liquor be stopped from making this useless and dangerous commodity?

Let us require Congress to give the nation War Prohibition, and see that it is given uniform, conscientious enforcement. It will be a tremendous aid to national efficiency.

Do your part. Write the President of the United States; the two U. S. Senators from your state (Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.), and the Congressmen from your district. Now is the time to act.—Ex.