

this attitude, this fellowship, this passion, known as Christian evangelism.

Christian evangelism may be seen in the early Church even before the day of Pentecost. The Apostles and early disciples had a good degree of this glorious spirit as they marched in obedience to the command of Christ to the Upper Room to tarry for the Holy Ghost.

The Spirit and Evangelism

Christian evangelism broke loose in a mighty flame of holy fire with the coming of the Holy Ghost. There began a mighty wave of Christian evangelism. One has only to read the record found in the Acts of the Apostles to realize this. Whatever came to them with the purpose of defeating them in their mission it failed. God was on them and in them and victory was sure.

Christian evangelism in the early Church was carried on chiefly by laymen. Why not? The scattering of the early laymen meant the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. The scattering of the Holy Ghost laymen (note "except the Apostles") meant the spreading of the holy fire in Christian evangelism. It blazed across the country. We have often wondered about many of our present-day laymen who on having to move to a place where there is no deep spiritual life why they drop up. The early Church laymen did differently. They had a revival.

Evangelism and Life

Christian evangelism is a life, a holy life, at least a holy life issuing into a glorious spirit of evangelism. This is true in both ministry and laity, for there is no double standard. "Ye are . . . that ye might show forth," a condition of being and then out of that condition an issue of evangelistic activity. Experience and then expression. Out of the many times the word "preach" is used in the New Testament, very few times it means what we attach to it, namely, to give a message in public worship. In the majority of cases it means a talking about the things of God. Our life should be a sermon: "Ye are the epistles of Christ read and known of all men." Some person said to Sir Walter Scott: "I want to write a book." Sir Walter Scott replied, "Be a book. That is better."

More than Organization

Christian evangelism, then, was more than organization, special meeting, methods, and such like; it was God in His fullness upon His Church and people, producing a holy disposition on fire with the Holy Ghost; a divine fellowship, a sacred attitude, a holy passion, a holy dynamic, inflamed by the "spirit of burning" for the lost and dying. It is specifically that today. The job of the laymen, then, as well as the ministry, is this very work performed in this very way. Christian evangelism is the work of every department of the Church of Jesus Christ. When this is the order of the day in a church, holy revivals will be the order of the day.—The Christian Digest.

It is not the gift, but the amount of love in it that gives it value with God.

He knows, He loves, He cares—

Nothing this truth can dim—

He gives His very best to those

Who give their best to Him.

—Guide to Perfect Love

How can that family expect the blessing of God in which the worship of God is not daily maintained?

"THE NORMAL CHURCH"

By Rev. F. J. Archer

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

The Normal Church. The "early church," made up of individuals who were saved from sin, their natures cleansed, and the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost, was a demonstration of God's "norm" for the Holy Ghost dispensation. "All else is subnormal, weak, anemic and impotent." All else ends in confusion and paralyzing fear. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." Only those who are thus empowered can be witnesses unto Christ. No heavenly charter, sanction or authority is proffered, only as this all-essential scriptural prerequisite is met, viz., the baptism "with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

It is very evident that there could have been no "early church" without the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. Disciples who would "command fire to come down from heaven" to consume their enemies and were desiring first place, prominent seats on the right hand and on the left, were in no spiritual condition to make a gospel of sacrificial love to a world of selfishness and sin. "Be ye holy" is still the call and command of God. "Holiness people are fighters, and if they are not fighting sin and Satan they will be fighting each other" (not holy people), and like the Kilkenny cats, destroy themselves. The writer of the Hebrew well knew of those who make profession without possession, and warns those who "fail of the grace of God" and of "any root of bitterness springing up [to] trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Many! Yes, the roots of bitterness "springing up" cause a world of trouble! God has given us a beautiful world in which to live, and has provided plenty for all; but that creature called "man," all because of a depraved, sinful nature, has spoiled it all and has deluged the whole world in sin, sorrow and death! What an unspeakable debacle man has made as he has ignored God's plan of redemption for fallen man and has attempted to run the affairs of the world himself!

The carnal heart spares nothing, but on the contrary would destroy all that is pure, sacred and holy. Home, the basic unit of society, founded, ordained and blessed of God, is often disrupted by the "springing up" of the roots of bitterness, resulting in the separation of parents and the scattering of the precious children. All too often, under the guise and pretense of a desire to save the church by holding to the "ancient landmark," the cantankerous carnal nature springs up, wounds hearts, devastates the church program, drives people from the church and from God and manifests a spirit entirely foreign to the spirit of "The Man of Galilee" and, tragedy of tragedies, calls it holiness! Self-deception! Deceived by the carnal heart! "The heart of man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" "From within, out of the heart of man, proceedeth" that long list, a veritable Vesuvius of corruption. A passer-by observing a window-washer most diligently rubbing away but with no success, exclaimed: "It's on the inside!" Yes, it's on the inside, a Trojan horse, man's worst enemy. But, eternal thanks to God, there is power, "wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb"—power to cleanse from

sin, the very depths of the inmost being. That alone is the panacea for sin and all carnal propensities. The normal church is a church of believers who have walked in the light as He is in the light, and have been cleansed from all sin.

The normal church, thus cleansed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, breaks forth on the right hand and on the left with a vision of man's lost estate without the grace of God, and the glorious possibilities of every son and daughter of the human race through Jesus Christ our Lord. "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Jesus, before giving the world-wide apostolate to the disciples, lifted their faith by stating, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and lo, I am with you always." The same fathomless resources of power are for the church of today as she goes forth to fulfill her God-ordained mission. "The battle is not yours but God's."

"The church's one foundation

Is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation

By water and the Word:

From heaven He came and sought her

To be His holy bride,

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

"Mid toil and tribulation,

And tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation

Of peace forevermore;

Till with the vision glorious

Her longing eyes are blest,

And the great church victorious

Shall be the church at rest."

—Free Methodist

WORDS OF FLAME

Some time ago a gentleman as he passed along the street was offered a tract. He somewhat curtly refused, saying he did not want to be bothered with any of their evangelistic nonsense; but as the worker pressed him to take it, he did so, though he assured him he would burn it as soon as he got home; and he kept his word, throwing it into the fire and watching it burn. As the thin paper curled up with the heat, his eye caught the sentence: "The Word of the Lord liveth forever," and do what he could he could not rid himself of the words. They buzzed in his ear, they stood out boldly on the white pages of the ledger. Wherever he was, that passage of Scripture haunted him and made him miserable, until unable to bear it any longer, he went to the mission hall, and there finding peace, pardon and salvation, he learned to rejoice that the Word of the Lord did live forever. A little importunity is sometimes a good thing; if that open air worker had not pressed the tract on that gentleman, then, humanly speaking, that immortal soul would not have been saved.—Christian Herald.

The devil is willing to take the back seat in the Christian's heart and be good just to get to criticise.

Though Love repine, and Reason chafe,

There came a voice without reply—

'Tis a man's perdition to be safe,

When for the truth he ought to die.

—R. W. Emerson