

The King's Highway

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A REAL HOLY GHOST REVIVAL

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"Then they that gladly received the Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Acts 3:41.

This, in brief, is the numerical report of the first Pentecostal revival. Soon after, five thousand more were added to the church. If a report like this were sent to a modern-day holiness weekly it would deserve being placed within a "box" on the front page. We all believe in Holy Ghost revivals and we would like to see the results obtained at Pentecost. If we would have old-time Holy Ghost revivals with old-time results, we must get back to old-time methods and means of revivals. Let us study the first Pentecostal revival and see what conditions were met, then apply the same methods today. Perhaps we can obtain like results.

1.1. The disciples were saved men. Their names were written in Heaven. They had been with Jesus and learned of Him. They were not of the world even as their Lord was not of the world. They had been commissioned to preach and to cast out devils. Before a church can save others, she must be saved herself. She must warm by the same fire with which she would warm others. A church that is like a refrigerator will never have a revival. It must get thawed out first. Better do away with the "supper-room" and put in the "upper-room" of prayer. You will never see a revival in your church otherwise. Do away with the oyster stews and the ice cream suppers. They are too dead and too cold anyway. Institute something that has more fire and life than these things. "Judgment must begin at the house of God." Let the church get fired up, then watch the sinners come to the altar. We needed new births in the pulpits and pews of America. More old-time hell-fire and repentance preaching. Church members and preachers will have to be born again themselves before they can see new births among those outside.

2.2. In this Pentecostal revival the 120 disciples obeyed the Lord. He told them to "tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high." If we would see Holy Ghost revivals today we, too, must obey the Lord in all things and tarry until we receive the Holy Ghost. Mind the checks of the Spirit. If He sends you out to call from door to door with your Bible under your arm, and with tracts and Gospel literature, obey Him. If He wants you to take all the blame, even though you are not to blame, say, "Amen, Lord, I will." Then watch the revival fires begin to burn. Then see how the coldness will be lifted from the atmosphere in your church. See how God will then begin to pour out His Spirit on the services. How your altars will be filled with penitent, weeping souls!

3. The next thing that I notice about this first Pentecostal revival is that they were all

with one accord in one place when the fire of the Holy Ghost fell upon them. Ah, yes, that is it. "Behold how beautiful and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments" and then filled the atmosphere all around with sweet aroma. There you have a picture of a church with that beautiful spirit of oneness in its ranks. You need never fear from the enemy without, it is the enemy within that causes all the trouble in your church. Let all the members of any church get sanctified wholly and there is sure to be unity there. Some preachers are afraid to invite a holiness evangelist to conduct a revival in their churches for fear it will split the church. How strange! Did you ever hear of a husband and wife loving each other so increasingly and so dearly day after day until they finally had to get a divorce? It would be just as reasonable to think that as to think of a church being so sanctified and filled with perfect love and the Holy Ghost that they fell out with each other.

4. Then there was much prayer in this first Pentecostal revival. They prayed for about ten days. I imagine, too, that there was much heart-searching and confessing to God and to one another during that ten days of prayer. I could not conceive of anything else. Any time a hundred twenty people meet together for ten days of prayer as did these early disciples, you may depend upon it that the Lord will be faithful to them and show them what they must do in order to get rid of those things that hinder the coming of His blessed Holy Spirit.

If you would see a real Holy Ghost revival in your midst someone or more must "give birth" to it. Someone must agonize. As we travelled along a certain highway I read a sign, "Advertise or fossilize." A fossil is a petrified skeleton of a one time living creature. The publicity concern meant that sign for business men, but I wish to take the same words and add some to them and apply them to the church thus: "Agonize, evangelize and advertise or your church will fossilize." Many a church is made up of old fossils, both in the pulpit and pew. Even some holiness people are saved, sanctified, petrified and fossilized. They are a million miles from the faintest trace of a revival. Oh, for more agonizing in the pulpits of this country. "When Zion travailed she brought forth her children."

5. And lastly, the early church was baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. This preceded the conversion of the three thousand. If every church in America would tarry for this endowment of power we would see a nation-wide revival that would be greater than any other in the history of the world. Oh, for a Spirit-filled ministry. More ministers like Barnabas, "a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith." Then the natural result will

follow. Each people will be added unto the Lord. Each church follow the above five points and a Holy Ghost revival will surely follow. We have a never failing God and He is infinitely more desirous of giving us a revival than we are to receive one.

"They were in an upper chamber,
They were all of one accord,
When the Holy Ghost descended:
As 'twas promised in His Word.

"O, Lord, send the power just now,
O, Lord, send the power just now
O, Lord, send the power just now
And baptize everyone."

—The Vanguard

"A PERFECT TRIBUTE"

By John W. Alexander

On Thursday, Sept. 24, 1942, the United States Senate was opened with prayer by one of Washington's most unusual ministers, a white-haired gentleman of eighty years, the past forty of which have been spent as pastor of a church which is almost in the shadow of the Capitol itself. He has opened the House with prayer under nine different Speakers, a record unequalled by any other man.

As a young man he was a close friend of John Wanamaker, and entered the latter's business house in Philadelphia. Promotions came rapidly, and he was on the threshold of an important advancement when one afternoon he suddenly resigned to accept the call to the ministry.

The radiance of his character, developed in years of companionship with his Master, brought this spontaneous tribute from a young person who accosted him a few days ago and said, "I am trying to live for Jesus, but there is something lacking in my life—and I see it in yours."

Could a finer tribute be given to one's discipleship?

IN CHINA

Travel in the western provinces of China gives one a thrilling realization of the suddenness with which everything modern is sweeping into that nation. High-powered motor cars travel over military highways which are models of engineering efficiency. These contrast with the old cobble roads along which trains of staggering donkeys and undersized ponies still stumble. Railways are being built through these new sections. One of the common questions among the natives is, "When will the new edition of the Chinese-English New Testament be ready?" A missionary asked to assist in a government office tells of his amazement when entering into this new relationship with high Chinese officials to discover how many made it their regular habit to read the Bible and pray.—Religious Telescope.