

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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A REVIVAL WILL COME NOW, IF—

Yes, in this time of world crisis, when the war tension is great; when there is a rush after material things, and when men and women's minds are distracted by many varied demands, we can expect a revival, if—the people who profess to know and love the Lord see the need of a deep, Spirit-sent, sin-killing, church-edifying revival and are willing to pay the price for it. For months we have been thinking, talking, and praying revivals. That is proper. But we need to begin to expect a revival now. Expectation must come to fruition or people will lose heart.

Many speak as if it is impossible for them to have a revival because the numbers are small, or because the condition of their finances do not permit the importation of famous revival teams, or because of war work. We would not be so rash as to say that these things may not, to a degree, influence some aspects of the revival. But the facts are that some who have large numbers, plenty of finance, and employ the best evangelistic help do not always have revivals, while some other places seem to have the very kind of revivals that the others thought impossible. Why is that? Certainly it is not because of any arbitrariness on God's part. He is willing that there should be revivals; yea, more, He is desirous that His people stay fervent in spirit. The fault must lie with us, His people.

If one will turn to God's words to Solomon at the dedication of the Temple, when the King had poured out his soul in supplication, he will get God's revival recipe. Read these words slowly and prayerfully:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14.

That involves humiliation, prayer, a spiritual hunger for God's presence and for His will to be done, and a willingness to allow Him to search and reveal the whole heart life; as well as an abandonment to the whole will of God after having forsaken everything known to be contrary to God's will.

Brethren, let us analyze our revival efforts. We have had good evangelistic help, the music and preaching have been of the highest order. But in too many instances there were not the results we had a right to expect. The same workers may have been wonderfully used of God elsewhere, but here; it was a soul-humiliating disappointment. Often we try to excuse the defeats by placing the blame where it may not belong. Often our people have come to expect the workers' talents to insure a meeting; and often the workers feel that they must produce a certain type of visible stir, else their reputation will be jeopardized.

That can lead to an unwholesome situation and hurt all concerned.

God is not changeable. His will never changes. His standard for His people never changes. His demands never change. His promises are the same yesterday, today, and forever. The power of God is as great today as it ever was. The possibilities of grace are as available to us today as to our fathers in the faith. The day of revivals is not past. The expectation of the world that God's people live differently and be distinguished for their spiritual power and piety has not changed. That is not an unfair demand. It is God's plan for them. Therefore, let us resolve that a revival is possible for us today, and also resolve that by God's help we will see a revival among our people.

While other denominations are troubled by Modernism's blight, we have none of that with which to contend. We can thank God that there is not one among us who disputes the fundamentals and our Articles of Religion. We are not rent with internal strife, and thank God for that! We are in a healthy state of growth numerically and financially, for which we thank God. But there is a need for an old time revival of Holy Ghost fire and power that will energize us and intensify our efforts. We have petty problems from which such a revival would set us free, allowing us to tackle some of the world's major needs with renewed zeal and with united vigor. A revival would mean to us what a shower of rain means to a healthy field of grain; a better yield than would be had without it. Actually, we need to be revived to the extent that our concern for the salvation of others becomes such a consuming passion that we can not be at ease, we must be active in soul winning work.

The revival we want is not just a formal meeting when we shall hear good singing, good preaching, and feel a heart stirring that departs with the exodus of the special helpers. What we want is that which intensifies our spiritual activities so that after the special workers have gone men will do their whole duty to God and man cheerfully and without intermissions. We want a revival that becomes the beginning of new obedience to God. We do not want the superficial substitutes that are so common, we do not want that which is from below, but that which is from above. We want a revival which preaches the whole truth fearlessly, not a compromised message of honeyed words. But we want the presentation of the truth in sane balance, with the authority of God and not the opinions of the preachers as its ground and support. We want the kind of preaching that stresses repentance instead of reformation, the revival that produces "know-so" instead of "hope-so" converts. We want a revival that emphasizes holiness and, while conducted with due regard for decent forms, leaves no room for

carnality, formality and worldliness. We want a revival that builds up the whole church life and does not leave the pastor with more problems to solve than he had when it began. A genuine Holy Ghost revival solves problems, while a human stir that man works up creates fresh problems, in addition to the old ones already on hand. We want a revival that approves self-denial instead of excusing self-indulgence. We are looking for a revival that means adjusted relationships between man and his God and between man and his fellow men. Such a revival will demand more praying and tears than preaching and singing.

That there is a place for human effort no one will deny. Man has a place in this, but it is God that will give the increase. Without the help of God all human efforts are in vain. But let the pastors and leaders first search their own hearts and see if there is anything that is interrupting their fellowship with God or with man. We must have all the lines clear for the maximum of blessing. Just as a small speck of dust may stop the flow of current to a delicate motor, and just as a little maladjustment of the radio will blur the reception, so the tiniest thing can prevent the fullest blessing of God, and hinder the Spirit's operation. It is better to be humiliated by taking the blame, if that solves problems, than to refuse to do it and allow the skies to withhold their showers of blessings. If there is a misunderstanding, adjust that. If there is anything questionable, put that away. If there is dryness of soul, fast and pray until the soul is bathed in unction. If there is the slightest trace of unforgiveness, put that away as a plague. If there is a hurt over something for which you were not responsible, pray above, beyond, and through that thing until you "forget the things which are behind." Get your own soul ablaze with holy glow and glory and then others will "want that kind of blessing."

Then one can begin to call upon indifferent professors to confess and forsake their state and deepen their spiritual life; and upon the unsanctified to see their need of going on unto holiness, dying to self and sin and presenting themselves a living sacrifice to God. Actually, brethren, there will not be much of a moving on the part of the world until there has been a real reviving among church members.

Backsliders will have to reject their own paths which they have their unpaid vows to God and the Church. The vow-breaking professors will have to confess their unfaithfulness to God and to the Church, and pay their vows. Then peace will come and the Church will have power with God and with men. It was the Pentecostal fire that gave the early Church

(Continued from Page 3)

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Miss Alice Tedlie, Dec 4