

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

The day of Pentecost, the official advent of the Holy Spirit into the world and the birthday of the Christian Church, is one of the outstanding historic events of the Christian era. Each year a Sunday is given to the commemoration of this great event and for some reason this commemoration never has been observed as widely as it should be by the majority of Protestant churches, especially by the churches promoting the doctrine of holiness. This day should be as significant and hold as much for us as any other great Christian commemoration in the church calendar.

The events recorded of the historic Day of Pentecost when the one hundred and twenty believers were filled with the Holy Spirit are often read and fill a large place in our thinking. The casual reader may conclude that this event came without any special preparation, but such is not the case. The way was definitely prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had done much in preparing these people in the spiritual experience and knowledge He had given them, for they were definitely related to Him in spiritual experience. He had commanded them to tarry until the promise of the Father would come, the coming of which would endue them with power. He had promised them that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

The believers themselves were not indifferent to these commands and promises. They were obedient and faithful to the word of their risen Lord; they did tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. They were active in their interest in the work of Christ, also in the preparation of themselves for this mighty event. The oneness of purpose and desire stated in these words, "They were all with one accord in one place," indicates not only that they all had come to the place of meeting at the same time, but also that there was a true inner oneness existing. This term "one accord" says Dr. Adam Clarke, "is very expressive. It signifies that all their minds, affections, desires and wishes were concentrated in one object, every man having the same end in view, and having but one desire; they had but one prayer and every heart uttered it. There was no person uninterested, none unconcerned, none lukewarm; all were in earnest, and the Spirit of God came down to meet their united faith and prayer." What preparation of heart they had made.

It is apparent likewise that there was a spirit of anticipation among this group of believers. They were expecting the risen, ascended Christ to send "the promise of the Father." Their expectations were not centered on a time afar off, but there is a suggestion as we read the narrative that there was an immediate spirit of expectancy. They were not surprised or startled when Jesus fulfilled His promise. There seems to be no indication that they were frightened by the sound as of the rushing wind, the cloven tongues as of fire, or by the inner feeling

of fullness which they experienced. The multitude marvelled and questioned, but these believers rejoiced in the fulfillment of the promise. The promise of the Father had been sent, the Holy Spirit had come. "This is that," said Peter with emphasis—that prophesied by Joel, that for which they had been looking.

There never will be another Pentecost in the sense in which the Holy Spirit came on this particular occasion. That was His official advent; He came, as Jesus said, to abide forever. But God's children individually, as a result of their full dedication of life to God and faith in Him, may today enter into the enjoyment of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost may become a personal experience to every child of God. Also, the Church today, the body of Christ represented in the different congregations of believers, may enjoy the rich outpourings of the Holy Spirit, they may be filled with the Holy Spirit as were these believers on a later occasion (recorded in Acts 4:31), to equip them to meet the issues they must face as the representatives of Christ in the world. The fullness of Pentecost belongs definitely to the Church today and the Church enjoys this fullness only as it prepares itself for and opens itself to the outpourings or anointings of the Holy Spirit.

There is a preparation that we must make today for any particular manifestation of the pentecostal fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is not enough to have had one such manifestation, a high point in your church history to which you may point. These seasons of pentecostal refreshings should come upon the church frequently. But the preparation for these special refreshings or outpourings of the Holy Spirit is much the same as with these believers on that great Day of Pentecost. There must be faithfulness to God, obedience to His word, a united effort of faith and prayer—being "of one accord in one place," and a genuine attitude of anticipation, an expectancy that God will answer our prayers and respond to our faith. There must not be the accepting of anything shallow or of a light blessing, we must wait for and have the fullness of the Spirit outpoured upon us. Oh, how great is the need everywhere for such a pentecostal outpouring!

In the confusion and turmoil of this day there is special need for a new and rich outpouring of the Spirit upon the Church. Shall we meet those conditions before God which will bring such a Pentecostal blessing to our churches?

—Herald of Holiness.

AN INTRODUCTION

We welcome a new contributor to The King's Highway in the person of Rev. R. Barclay Warren. Brother Warren is pastor of the Broadview Ave. Free Methodist Church of Toronto, and an esteemed friend of The Highway editor. The brief Biblical messages from his pen are printed in daily and religious papers of Canada and United States, and we are sure will bring much profit to our readers:

THAT'S DIFFERENT

By Rev. J. Ward Seberry

Frequently in reproving people for their slackness, slothfulness, waywardness and inconsistencies we are confronted with this little phrase, "That's different." Let us note a few examples:

1. Many desire an old-fashioned, Holy Ghost revival, but few are willing to pray, fast, sacrifice and pay the price for one. That's different!

2. Many would like the old-time glory of the early Methodists, but few are willing to fast systematically every Wednesday and Friday until 3:00 p.m., and to tarry hours daily before God, as they did. That's different!

3. Many testify to sanctification, but some do not show the fruit of that experience. That's different! Paul said, "Knowing this (we can know it), that our old man is crucified with him" (Rom. 6:6).

4. Many are willing to consecrate for holiness, but few are not willing to take the Bible route and confess out their pride, envy, jealousy, anger, lust, and fear of man until they receive a genuine experience of Bible holiness. That's different!

5. Many are willing to tithe, if a portion of it can be sent to "Cousin Henry of Colorado," or be used to buy a neighbor some coal; that they might receive the glory. But few are willing to follow the scriptural plan and "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse" (Mal. 3:10). That's different.

6. Many are willing to lay aside some of their worldly garb, but to come right out and take the plain way of the cross and "Be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2)—that's different!

7. Many parents have strong convictions against curled hair, wearing of jewelry and running half-nude, but will allow their little teenage daughter to friz her hair, bedeck herself with Satan's trash, and run half-naked. Of course they say, "That's different!" Is it? You can no more allow your daughter to do these things than you can do them yourself. Mothers, are your hands stained with blood?

8. Many find faults with others, criticize, backbite, and slander, draw everyone else to the line, but when we begin to step on their idols, that's different! O consistency, thou art a jewel! Christ would say to this group, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" (Matt. 23:24).

9. Many say, "Oh, how we love the house of God," but to become a regular attendant, that's different!

10. Many are quick to stay home from Sunday, saying, "The children are not feeling well," but we notice it does not keep them from going to work on Monday. That's different!

11. Many can alibi, "We were not in church last Sunday because of the rain," but the same people wait for a rainy day, when they cannot

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