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THE HOLY GHOST REVIVAL

There is an increasing conviction on the part of many, that the only thing that can save America and our present civilization is a great revival. The spiritual sag in the larger denominations, resulting in empty pews and an alarming decline in Sunday school attendance, has caused them to pass resolutions in conferences, synods and conventions concerning the need of a revival.

Youth delinquency, crime, the appalling liquor situation, the increase in venereal disease, broken homes by divorce, and the lowered moral standards of womanhood all cry aloud from the housetops proclaiming the need of a mighty revival. In the face of these alarming conditions there are those who are still talking about remedying the ills of the world with social panaceas, brotherhood, and ethical standards of their own appointment, without the undergirding of a great spiritual revival.

There are men in high positions in church and state who are talking in terms of post-war planning in the same manner as men talked at the close of World War 1. Isolationists and internationalists are again to have their innings in the discussions of post-war planning. Speeches will be made, editorials, articles, and books will be written. There will be no end of heated discussions by the fireside and the wayside.

We had all of this at the close of World War 1. Yes, the various camps and schools of thought had their innings in a great way. Peace conferences and organizations were multiplied by the hundreds following World War 1. Tons and tons of literature went out in behalf of peace. Multiplied thousands of youth were induced to sign a pledge that they would never, under any circumstances, have anything to do with war. But alas! In spite of all this we find ourselves in the midst of the greatest of all wars.

Will we repeat again the same folly? Undoubtedly we will unless we dedicate ourselves to the task of bringing to the hearts of men the one and only remedy for the evil out of which springs all wars. The apostle James calls our attention to the root source of all wars. He says: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

When we fix the social order without fixing the hearts of men, we build upon a foundation of sand. When we make proper adjustments in race relations without fixing the hearts of the races, they will destroy the adjustments that we make. If we twine the branches of a tree until they present ever so much loveliness in symmetry of form and outward appearance and fail to water the roots, the tree will die.

A Holy Ghost revival deals with the root of the evils which plague the world. It tackles the disease from which spring the symptoms. It deals not only with the cancer, but also the virus from which spring the cancer. Isaiah describes the condition of humanity: "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint." The malady of the human race is so deadly that it is beyond the reach of human remedies.

The time is ripe for a Holy Ghost, heaven-sent revival. The conditions of the world demand it. Other remedies have failed. This remedy remains as the only hope of mankind. In all post-war planning, this plan should hold priority over all other plans. Many men in the service of their country have been awakened to their spiritual needs. They are aware of the need of a Holy Ghost revival. A commander in the Navy, fresh from the battle zones of the South Pacific, said to the writer: "Many men are turning to Christ on the battlefronts, and I am deeply concerned about the kind of a church the men will return to when they come home."

Will the men return to a church where institutionalism, ecclesiasticism and ritualism hold sway, or where the Holy Ghost holds sway? There will be multiplied thousands of men returning from the battlefronts who would rejoice to find the church engaged in a Holy Ghost revival, and would be glad to join wholeheartedly in the spread of such a revival. If they return and find that something has happened to the church in the matter of a mighty spiritual awakening, they will join in giving impetus to the awakening. If, however, they return and find that the church has failed to respond to the challenge of such an epochal and crucial hour of destiny, they will be disappointed, and the church will have lost an opportunity, the portents of which are immeasurable.

We rejoice that some of the large denominations are making some official moves in the direction of giving the "Go Sign" to evangelism, and some are even making official pronouncements about a nation-wide revival. But we raise the question, "What kind of a revival?" The nation and the world must have something more than an "official bow" to evangelism. The desperate need of the world cannot be met with anything less than a Holy Ghost revival. A revival in, through, and by the power of the Holy Ghost will meet the needs of the sinful, broken, confused and troubled hearts of men. God's skies are still full of Pentecosts to be released upon a world headed for chaos upon chaos, when his people consecrate themselves and appropriate by faith, his sanctifying power. Only by this power can the thickening night of the world's despair be turned into a glorious new day.—Pentecostal Herald.

BEING A FUNNY MAN IS GRIM BUSINESS

Fred Allen, radio and screen comedian, who likes to be known as "the intellectual's Jack Benny," said, according to the Chicago Daily News: "Being a funny man is a grim business. It's the pace that kills. The machine age is destroying spontaneous humor."

"Take the average radio comedian today" Allen wailed despairingly—"he's just a 'mouth'—a mere middleman between his corps of ghost-writers and the public. You could train a bright parrot to do as well."

"Continual deadlines, and the psychological need to hold listener-attention by snapping out jokes at so many per minute," he said, "simply make it impossible to maintain a high standard of humor. It's mostly assembly-belt comedy these days."

"In the days when I played vaudeville," Allen reminisced, "a comedian would spend several months in perfecting a routine and then play it all over the country. Now, someone like Bob Hope needs a dozen writers to think up scores of gags each week. It's a miracle some of them are as good as they are."

This comes as no surprise to the Bible lover, for he has had the benefit of the following experience of King Solomon before him:

"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure; and, behold, this also is vanity. I said of laughter, It is mad; and of mirth, What doeth it?" (Ecclesiastes 2: 1 & 2).

Trying to satisfy the heart with laughter and mirth is as grim a business as being a funny man. They possess no genuinely satisfying qualities.

For "even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness." (Proverbs 14:13).

The reason the Psalmist could say: "My cup runneth over" (Psalm 23:5) is because he could also say: "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup." (Psalm 16:5).

The fulness of the infinite Lord is far more than any human heart can hold—hence the cup runs over!

The heart has been so fashioned by the Lord that it cannot be fully satisfied apart from Himself.

And blessed be His name, He offers us nothing less than Himself!

He says: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20).

And concerning Him, the apostle Peter says: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Although a believer possesses a good sense of humor, he is not dependent on a "funny man" for his joy and satisfaction. He can say with the apostle Paul:—"We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the atonement (or reconciliation)." (Romans 5:11).