

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

SEED TIME AND HARVEST

It is harvest time. The fruits of the spring-time sowing and mid-summer cultivating are being garnered in. In His goodness, God has given increase according to the promise and now the husbandman can enjoy the satisfying reward of faithful and patient labour.

It is also the time of year when we hopefully seek a harvest of souls. During the next six or eight months many revival campaigns will be conducted. Our hope is that these efforts will result in the ingathering of much of a whitened harvest. We shall do well to consider the law of sowing and reaping as it applies to both natural and spiritual realms. Those who sowed no seed in the sowing season found only barren fields in the time of harvest. If there was sloth and negligence during the growing season, the hardy, injurious spreading of the weeds result in a disappointing yield of fruit.

Revival is the need of the hour. There is no brighter prospect of the future than that which resides in the potential spiritual awakenings within the reach of faith. But let us be assured of this—tilling, sowing, weeding, cultivating precede the joyful harvesting.

There must need be some breaking up of fallow ground, sowing with tears, patient toil and waiting if the revival we hope for is to come. Much of revival effort of modern times is shallow and powerless, as compared to the mighty evangelistic crusades of the past. A certain type of evangelism may seem to produce great results without any sacrificial effort, but there is a superficiality in the meeting, in the converts, in the permanency of the work. We believe that we should employ the very best talent available for soul-saving work, and that calls for the primary qualification of those engaged being saved, consecrated workers. Every method that can be legitimately employed to bring victory should be diligently employed. But when we trust in methods and men, in programme and personal appeal to produce revival, whatever the immediate results may seem to be, the ultimate fruitage of the campaign will be disappointing.

There is victory for us if we follow the Divine pattern. The sickle is not the first instrument to be used, but the last. We cannot reap before we have sown. The plough and harrow, the hoe and cultivator, must first do their work, then we may expectantly thrust in the reaping instrument. If we pray with tears, if we confess our failures and our needs, if we earnestly and

importunately implore the great God for assistance and salvation, He will be heard of us.

The skies are full of Pentecost
For you, for me, for all;
Then let us pray the Lord of Hosts,
To send on us the Holy Ghost,
And fire from heaven will fall.

SHALL WE HAVE A REVIVAL?

Rev. R. H. Hamilton

Of course we all want to see the work of God revived—that is we desire it to a certain extent. But why suggest a limitation? The facts are that many desire certain objectives, but are not willing to take the steps necessary to bring them to pass. Do we desire to make a success in business? Of course we do. Yet there are many who have landed on the wreck-pile who had good desires, but who did not have the energy and will to sacrifice in order to make a business success. Just so it is in the work of the Lord.

Too many, who have a desire to see a revival, expect the pastor or the evangelist to do all the praying or personal work and practically everything that is necessary to produce such a revival. Is it any wonder we see so many fruitless efforts? In the material world, husband and wife and all the children who were old enough, worked early and late, and denied themselves of many comforts, in order to pay off the mortgage on the home. When that happy day arrived they all felt that it had been labor and sacrifice worth while.

We would suggest that revivals of religion are surely needed in these days of bitterness, heartbreaks, and strain. Only a vital contact with Christ can heal the wounds or sweeten and mellow our spirits. Bold, vaunting sin needs a set-back such as only God can give. "He maketh wars to cease to the ends of the earth; He breaketh the bow and burneth the chariots in the fire." Cold and lukewarm Christians need a definite renewing in love, zeal and power. The prayer of David as recorded in the 51st Psalm could well be the prayer of many—"Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation." The joy has departed from many lives.

We would further suggest that revivals are possible. The death of Christ on the cross has provided a way of reconciliation and a fountain of cleansing from sin. The advent of the Holy Spirit into the world to convict men and women of sin is a reality and His presence is as efficacious today as in any past day. The fact that many really sinful folk are finding God after being clearly awakened in these later days is proof that revivals are still possible.

It would seem therefore that the responsibility in the matter of revivals rests with the church today. May we suggest a few helpful steps toward the desired end. First, we would say that we should "talk" the revival up. Even in national crises they appoint a "propaganda ministry" and place great stress on this department. In the business world they appoint advertising managers. Just so, we believe the church should talk up their coming revival. Make the people "revival conscious." Whenever brethren or sisters in the church meet they should discuss the meetings, soon to take place. If old Bildad comes around suggesting that we cannot have a revival, or that the days of revivals seem past, give him

no place. Unbelief has wrecked many a worthy purpose. The promises of God are sure.

Again, our people should be encouraged to co-operate in all possible ways to this end. Let us all draw near to God. How willing He is to draw near to us. Let us examine our hearts and lives. If we have grieved God's Spirit by neglect or transgression, let us confess it either publicly or privately as the case may require. If any cold feelings have crept in between any, put on courage (it may take all you can muster) and go to the one in question and determine to be reconciled. You may not get them to acknowledge their fault, but you can acknowledge yours. This very attitude has led to many a revival.

Everyone should be encouraged to avoid the busy spirit for a time and devote a set period to pray. Revivals are born in an atmosphere of prayer. If we have been careless in this matter, we may find it difficult to pray at first. Our prayer faculty, like our faith faculty, may have become rusty. Only constant use can overcome this. Any or all of these steps may seem really difficult, but a revival is possible only where the people who are called by His Name really want a revival to the extent that they are willing to put themselves out for it.

We might also speak of the importance of personal contact with the unsaved. This can, no doubt, be done most effectively as we ourselves are in tune with God. Our earnest heart interest will speak better than the most fluent words. Do not pass anyone by because of a fear that they would not care to be spoken to on spiritual matters. Sometimes they may be the very ones who have never been approached along the lines of their souls' need and they really have a heart hunger, though they may not show it.

May we close this article with an illustration of the case in point. Dr. Wilbur Chapman, that great evangelist, relates the incident from his own personal experience. A lady whose son was ready for College desired that he might room with Chapman and have the influence of his Christian life. They got along well in a social way but pursued their own courses. Four years passed and the young man graduated as a Civil Engineer and was selected to carry out a Government commission in the South. Chapman accompanied him to the station and bid him good-bye. The friend held Chapman by the hand and said, "Wilbur, all these years you have been a Christian but you have never spoken to me about my soul. Why have you not done so? Wilbur murmured something about not wishing to bore him. "Ah," said his friend, "I often wished you would have said something to me." Six months later he fell a victim to the dread Yellow Fever and passed on. Dr. Chapman carried a lasting regret with him, even though he confessed his neglect with tears to his Lord, and felt he had been forgiven.

Brethren, we have said nothing new. These steps have often been emphasized. It just remains for us to faithfully carry them out. We believe we can have revivals if we will take these things to heart, and God knows we greatly need such revivals and need them now.

Every act of obedience to God from right motives, strengthens us spiritually; every act of disobedience weakens us spiritually and dims our vision.—George Muller.