

DEEP LESSONS FROM GOD . . .

E. E. Shelhamer

Dwell deep! Valuable things do not lie around on the surface. Oil is worth more than gas, but it is worth likewise the extra drilling to obtain it. The Kimberly diamond mines are the deepest man-made hole on earth, and since diamonds are worth more than coal, it pays to go after diamonds.

The matter of "walking with God" implies that we are agreed—we are going in the same direction. We are keeping step and our goal is the same.

A test of being well-saved is not how well you can appear in public, but how you feel inside when snubbed or another is put ahead of you.

The best way to triumph over a snub is to join in with opposers, and inwardly rejoice; for God has either willed or permitted this fresh token of His love. Wesley said, "The ill usages, the affronts, the losses and the crosses are better means to growth in grace than having everything to your liking." Then, rejoice that you are counted worthy.

"Take it by faith." This may sound good, but it is too shallow. A better expression is: Wait before God until He gives you the faith to **take it**.

The Holy Spirit comes upon a seeker long before He **comes in to abide**. So, do not make the mistake of running off with being "slightly healed," but tarry until every carnal trait is put to death and Christ comes in to **reign** without a rival.

When you are contradicted or misunderstood, if you want to fight your own battle, God will step aside and let you have the job—but it will be a difficult job. On the other hand, if you can keep sweet and answer never a word, He will defend you and fight for you, and lift you above all opposition.

The Holy Spirit is very polite, and will not talk to you while another is speaking. He is very gentle, and will not force one to listen. Sometimes we must wait quite a while to distinguish between His full approval or disapproval. We read of Israel: "God gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." * * * Doubtless Satan sometimes holds his breath, so to speak, as he stands afar off and eagerly watches our inward decision, whether we lean in the right direction, or the wrong.

Long before a big tree crashes with a "boom," it has leaned just a little out of balance. In like manner, long before a preacher has gone down with a crash, he secretly trifled with a covenantal vow, to be on the safe side of every question. At first, he consented to lean just a little toward compromise; then toward calls that offer a bit more money; then toward big dinners; then toward being a "good mixer," especially with business men and pretty women; lastly, a little pull, or a little push, and down he goes with a crash that shocks everybody!

Take Balaam, a backslidden prophet, for an example: King Balak sent for him to come and "curse" Israel. At first he inquired of God and was positively forbidden to go. Balak sent again, and inasmuch as Balaam secretly wanted the "wages and honor" offered by Balak, God permitted him, and later withstood him, and finally cursed him. The last we see of him, he has joined Balak's army, is slain in battle, and plunges into perdition!

What a fearful thought, that there are, now, men howling in the corridors of hell who, at one time, walked on higher planes of celestial light than any of us have ever enjoyed. "Let him that thinketh (yea, is quite sure) he standeth, take heed lest he fall."

TRUE HOLINESS . . .

According to the Scriptures holiness—moral wholeness, completeness of love—takes place after justification, and consists in purifying the believer from all remaining hereditary carnality. It is received in a moment by faith, and is attested by the Holy Spirit. Any statement of the doctrine of sanctification that essentially differs from this has never produced the actual results of holiness. God does not own and bless error, even though an angel should preach it; * * * but when the **pure doctrine is preached by a pure messenger**, it is immeasurably powerful. Some say it doesn't matter about the doctrine, if one lives right; but the fact is, no one can live right in heart with God except it be according to sound Bible doctrine.

While there is a peculiar technicality about the doctrine of sanctification, there is also a peculiar power about the experience of it * * * The experience itself covers up the mere doctrine with life and feeling and power. There is a conscious experience of utter interior yielding of self to God, a conscious rest in the perfect will of God, a conscious purity of heart, a feeling of clearness in affections and desires, an inward soul-light and power. * * *

There is a practical form of holiness—the outward manifestation in the details of life of the inner fact of holiness in the soul. There can be no outward practice of true holy living until after a work of conscious holiness has been wrought within by the power of God. Many are trying to lash and coerce themselves into holy living without having the fact of conscious purity produced within.

Hundreds of ministers who are prejudiced against entire sanctification are blindly urging their poor unsaved congregations to live practical holiness, and yet they turn around and oppose the obtaining of entire heart holiness, which is the only thing in the universe that produces the true practice of it. In order to **practice** holiness, one must **have** it.

If we have but the mere doctrine by itself, we shall be formalists; if we hold only to the experience, apart from the doctrinal and practical, we shall be fanatics; if we insist on the practical details of life, apart from the other two, we shall be harsh, critics, measuring every one by our own conscience and mode of life. But if all three of these are preserved in full proportion, then holiness must spread without either formalism, fanaticism or bitterness of spirit.

—Geo. D. Watson.

WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY

(By R. Barclay Warren)

Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God should come, (Lu. 17:20). He concludes his answer with a parable teaching that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Since the widow by her continual coming gained her petition from the judge, "Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear longer with them?" It often seems that God is tardy in coming to the rescue of his people; ex.—the bondage of

Israel in Egypt, the repeated oppressions during the rule of the judges and the fatal illness of Lazarus. But man's extremity is God's opportunity. Too often it is only when we are in dire straits that we are willing to give God a chance. When God undertakes he achieves quickly. Then Jesus concludes, "Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"

Paul tells us that the day of Christ shall not come, "except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of Perdition." 2. Thess, 2:3. The mystery of iniquity was already working in Paul's day, but the apostacy preceding the return of our Lord would reach much greater proportion.

Could it be that we are now in the time of the falling away? Is the church tending to turn from the proclamation of the gospel and the call to holy living to teachings more inclined to tickle the human ear? Are professed Christians, in general, thinking more and more in terms of selfishness rather than imitating the spirit of the meek and lowly Jesus?

At any rate we ought always to pray. Men may say, "Where is the promise of His coming?" 2 Pet. 3:4. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." May we be found among the faithful.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Dear Highway Friends:

Another Thanksgiving approaches to remind us of the goodness of God and to bring to our attention the manifold blessings that have been ours through the past year.

We have had peace on earth, and the present privilege of worshipping God under our own vine and fig-tree. The opportunity of living normal lives with loved ones home again.

But beloved, while we consider these privileges, let us not forget that we who enjoy the benefits of a "Full Gospel," holiness of heart and life, have an obligation toward those who do not know the joys of the sanctified. Paul declares: "I am debtor both to the Greek and to the barbarian, and I am ready to preach the gospel to them that are at Rome also." I believe this must be our attitude also as holiness people.

Our Evangelistic superintendent, (Rev. F. A. Dunlop) is shaping up work for the near future and we as a Board would covet your prayers for this work.

Your Home Mission Board has chosen Thanksgiving Sunday for Special Home Mission Offering.

"Freely ye have received, freely give."

Let the pastors and people join heartily in praying and paying.

A joyous Thanksgiving time to you all.

J. A. OWENS,

President of Home Mission Board.

It was only a piece of old tin lying in the road, apparently useless and unwanted, but as it caught and reflected the sun's bright rays, it looked like burnished gold. So we, whoever or wherever we may be can receive and reflect the light of the Sun of Righteousness when there is nothing between our souls and Him, and some will see and know Jesus through us. "They looked unto Him and were lighted, and on their faces was brilliancy."

—Selected.