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MISS Jessie Teddie, Dec 45

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

“And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness.”

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THE CARDINAL NEEDS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By C. H. Brown.

In visiting churches between Toronto and Miami, Chicago and Nassau, although one finds varying conditions and different degree of success, one cannot but be amazed at the wonderful activities of organized Christianity. God had not left Himself without witnesses, and there are many, many devoted Pastors and Leaders whose one desire is to do the Master's will.

Church bulletins include every day of the week, men and women alike being connected with circles and groups which are integral parts of the life of the Church.

In many of the more rural churches of America the Ladies' Aid Society is the principal source of finance; whilst in the larger towns and cities every imaginable phase of activity is carried on by the various sections of the ladies' organization, and any new lady presenting herself at church is likely to be invited quickly to join one group or other of these "Rainbow Circles." Dinners, suppers, parties, socials, catch up the members into a vortex of activity for the benefit of the church. Scores of hard working Ministers scarcely ever have a free night; yet they have to confess how heartbreaking is the lack of real progress.

I. PRAYER.

In spite of all the activity, all the self-sacrificing toil of the loyal members, and the faithful plodding of the Minister, the spiritual life of the Church lacks vitality—the temperature is alarmingly low. In hundreds of churches the only voice heard in prayer is that of the Minister, and what is announced as the "Weekly Prayer Meeting" has resolved itself into a short preaching service. Let it be remembered that the old maxim is still true: *No Prayer, No Power; Little Prayer, Little Power; Much Prayer, Much Power.*

.. If the Minister calls a meeting to arrange some scheme for the raising of funds, probably he gets a score or more of his leading people to spend two hours discussing ways and means—but if he calls a Prayer Meeting to get down to real prayer he is likely to be almost alone.

For many years the writer has carried in his Bible a leaflet issued by the "Great Commission Prayer League," which contains the following statement by the late Rev. S. Chadwick, under the heading "Prayer's Trembling Adversary": "Satan dreads nothing but Prayer." The Church that lost its Christ was full of good works. Activities are multiplied that prayer may be ousted, and organizations are increased that Prayer may have no chance. Souls may be lost in good works, as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the Devil is to keep the Saints

from Praying. He fears nothing from Prayerless studies, Prayerless work, Prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we *Pray.*"

With all my heart I believe that the primary need of the Christian Church is *Prayer Warriors*—to borrow a term from William Booth. The Church is composed of men and women, and they should be folk who get things done. Prayer prevails.

One night, in the beautiful city of Miami, known as the magic city of tropical America, with its stately palm trees, colourful orange groves, and wonderful climate, I heard the Rev. Paul Rood (President of the World's Christian Fundamental Association), make a mighty appeal for *one million Prayer Warriors*; their aim—revival. Dr. Rood spoke of the appalling conditions of America, economically, morally, socially, culturally; of the deterioration of home-life, literature and religion. Never shall I forget the passionate appeal he made for *Prayer Warriors*, and many hearts were gladdened by the splendid response.

To *Pray in the Spirit is the greatest thing a man can do.* It is thus that he co-operates with God in the work of the world's salvation. "Lord, Teach us to Pray." Prayer that gets things done is no pleasant, hurried, pastime; it must draw out the soul into an agony of desire, as Elijah's did. Paul's wonderful Prayer-List caused him to spend much time on his knees. In travelling Prayer he urged the Ephesian converts to measure the height and depth, the length and breadth of an immeasurable saintliness, and to be filled with all the fullness of God. Epaphras spent himself in the exhaustive toil and strenuous conflict of prevailing Prayer, in order that the Church at Colossæ might stand perfect and complete in "all the will of God." In the early Church no premium was given to dwarfs. New-born babes must grow—that was the Apostolic principle. Milk diet is all right, for a time! No encouragement was given to a long babyhood. All faculties were exerted that the people of God might each and all come in the unity of the Faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man—"unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

No amount of money, genius, or culture can move things for God. The gold standard is not His norm. Prayer alone counts. Prayer Warriors aflame with love to God and man, who recognize that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," Prayer Warriors who realize their need of God's mighty power in their Prayers, they are the factors that really count in those regions of

the Spirit where the warfare goes on continuously between God and Satan.

How valuable are these Saints! How scarce! Holy characters are formed only through Prayer. It is as the "Spirit prays in our spirit" that we are drawn into intimate contact with our Heavenly Father. The greatest of all Ministries is that of Intercessory Prayer. It is the most neglected. It is our primal need. Lord teach us to Pray!

THE CHURCH AND YOU

R. Barclay Warren

The word for church which Jesus used means "called-out." It signifies the group of these who have heeded the call of God and come out from sin to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. The church is frequently the object of harsh criticism. But the severest critics are those who are doing little or nothing to make the church a more effective power in the world. Those who are pulling their full weight as members of that mystical body may offer criticism too, but it will be kind and constructive.

The church is composed of people like you and me. If it is failing in your community, it may be that the reason is "you." Are you in your private heart life really living religion? Is your married companion enthusiastic about the genuineness of your professed Christian life? How about the folk where you work? Have they confidence in you as a Bible Christian? Do your honesty and Christlike life impress them? How about your fellowship with other Christians? Of course you love everyone of them, for love is the badge of discipleship. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35). Such love will help you to have patience with those with whose ways you do not agree. But whether you help after the manner of Dorcas with a needle, Stephen the administrator, Andrew the contact man, or Peter the preacher, you will give of your very best for the building of the kingdom of God.

You will do your part in helping to finance the church in its various needy spheres. This is important. But do not excuse yourself from other responsibilities because you have done this. Remember what Jesus said of the woman who had put less than a cent into the treasury, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury." It was the woman's spiritual life behind her sacrificial giving that made her gift great. Your most

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