



The King's Highway

Miss Viola Churchill, June 48

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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CONDITIONS FOR A NEW REVIVAL MOVEMENT

James Flint Boughton

The industrialist calls it reconversion; the Christian in his prayers looks for a revival. The war left our industry almost completely dislocated. The war, unbelief, secularism and a dozen other spiritually disturbing influences have left our moral and spiritual condition even more alarmingly disordered. Only an old-fashioned revival can really help us just now. The economic and social future of our country, and of the whole world will be determined by the new attitude toward spiritual things. The future of atomic energy will be determined by the character of those who share its secrets.

Restoration of Faith

Faith is the indispensable condition for all Christian experiences. Lose faith, it matters not how, and you lose that without which the life and work of God cannot exist in human personality. Take away faith and you have done all that is necessary to dry up the streams of divine mercy. A deadly attack upon real evangelism has been made in our country by undermining faith. Faith in God; in the Deity of Jesus, in the Bible, in the divine working in human experience, in heaven, hell and immortality; systematically and continuously faith in these great essentials has been broken down. Philosophy, psychology, biology, secularism, humanism and current criticisms have managed to divert the faith of our age from fundamental Christian principles to the modern march of science. Science has contributed magnificently to human happiness, but it is wrong, and not at all necessary when the popular mind is taught to accept the atomic bomb or anything that science says without question, but offers numerous doubts and objections at the power and principles of the Christian Gospel.

Religious faith will increase the true spirit of science. It is the spirit of all progress. It was the Christian faith of the last generation that became the real force in the advancement of science. By its very nature science does not produce faith, but it needs faith, that it must find elsewhere. Christianity creates faith. A real revival will create more of what is needed everywhere today than anything else that could happen.

Christians themselves need a revival of their faith that God will pour out His Spirit in power upon this age. Whatever the plan and purpose of God may be, in no place in the Bible are we told to "let up" in our efforts to reach all men for this uttermost salvation. It is ours to believe greatly, pray greatly, ex-

pect greatly and work greatly for the "latter rains" that we may be sure God wants to send upon our earth. It is almost as tragic for Christians to lose their faith in evangelism as it is for scientists to lose their faith in God and the Bible. The hundred and twenty at Pentecost were in an expectant as well as a prayerful attitude.

As at the Beginning

We may wisely and profitably look at Pentecost to get a clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is constant; the principles that underlie his attitudes are dependable and eternal. Certain manifestations may differ because of enlightenments and particular periods in human progress, but the nature of God, of man and of the experiences of divine grace remain the same in all generations. It need not be "Back to Pentecost," but let his coming now be in power and effectiveness as at the beginning.

A more intelligent approach to Spiritual Truth.

We live in an age of intellectual "short cuts" and almost indifference; at least so far as the more thoughtful things of life and Christian truth are concerned. Shallowmindedness is a poor background for deep and thorough spiritual work. The radio, movies, newspapers, digests and picture magazines may help to give us current events in a quick, vital and accurate fashion, but their total effect has been to make us all but incapable of sustained spiritual thought. The average congregation can't take more than a twenty-minute sermon, and it must be presented in an easy-to-understand way, at that.

The great spiritual periods in the history of Christianity have been attended, or followed, by clear and thoroughgoing Christian thinking. The apostle Paul in the early church, Wesley and Adam Clarke are examples of this. The more thoughtful mind may be a product, as well as a preparatory condition for rising tides in spiritual life, but it has always been noticeably present in any revival movement.

Encourage Spiritual Gifts and Leadership

One of the sins that most easily besets Christians is jealousy. We tend to regiment our fellow Christians. We don't want them any higher, or wider, or more gifted than we are; or if so, we do very little to encourage it. If the Spirit of God comes upon one of us, and a great demonstration of divine approval attends his ministries there is a tendency among us to "Talk him down." If we are to pray for, and expect a great revival movement we must pray for and encourage gifted leadership. God works through endued and endowed leaders. We older folks can encourage young men and women upon whom the Spirit has

come, and pray that God will raise up and endow a great host of them for spiritual leadership.

It is Time for a Change

Certain human ideas and movements have been in power for many years. They haven't proved satisfactory in directing us into larger moral and spiritual realizations. It is time now for a change. Let's change the over-emphasis upon the social gospel for an old-fashioned, all-fashioned, creative pentecostal revival movement. It's the life of God in the souls of men that make them good men. Dr. Link says that we are returning from our psychological and scientific cycle back to religion. Let's make something of it. Let's not have less faith in science, but immensely more faith in God, in the Bible, and the divine friendship. Let's change the chief emphasis in our psychology from the glands and the nervous system to the good and Godward side of our possible natures. Let's make sin as old and as ugly as it ought to be; and real Christian character as new and beautiful as it really is. Let's change the egotistic, ultramodern viewpoint for a total and well-balanced view of life. We've given materialistic evolution a long and good chance to prove its truthfulness and its usefulness. It hasn't made the personal or social life of our world any wiser or any better. Germany represents the pagan retrogression in the very social personification of the theories of evolution. She deserves defeat, doctrines and all. Let's don't perpetuate her dangerous and decadent ideas. Freedom and justice come not from the lower forms of life but from the higher and finer Godward side of our natures. We've been emphasizing the things we have in common with the wolf-pack until we have been acting like inhuman wolves. Let's try emphasizing the possible kinship that we may have with Christ and the spirit of goodwill.

We might exchange our exaggerated self-sufficiency for a new sense of dependence upon the love and life of God and his co-operating goodness. Let's change our overworked, false idea of freedom for the real freedom of good character and the free Christian mind. Let's change our loose morals and looser thinking for an intelligent understanding of life and a wise obedience to the good laws of God. Let's change our spiritual complacency (it's getting quite old, now) for a Spirit-roused enthusiasm for the power of God and the living realities of the Christian way. These changes can't hurt us, and there is every reason to believe that they will bring happier and more abundant living.—Pentecostal Herald.

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