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

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"I HUMBLED MY SOUL WITH FASTING"

Psalm 35:13

"Nothing shall be impossible unto you—by Prayer and Fasting." The practice of fasting is as old as humanity, but like many other neglected Bible truths has been lost only to be revived again in these "latter days" of this dispensation. The truth of the power in fasting as linked with prayer is being revealed to us that the work of God may have a greater potency.

More than two thousand years ago, it was a custom advocated by the school of the natural philosopher, Asclepiades, for curative purposes. Even Plutarch said, "Instead of using medicine, rather fast a day." Traces of this idea are to be found in ancient Chinese and Hindu writings. The Indians practised it also. It was used for religious purposes, as well as a method for restoring the health.

To Moses, after the Decalogue was proclaimed in the hearing of all Israel, was revealed the application of the law to all phases of life during his Two Fasts of Forty Days Each. (Ex. 24:18; 34:27-28).

The Psalms are largely a product of Fasting and Prayer. (Ps. 35-3; 69-10; 109-24). The sublimest utterances in the Psalms are not exaggerations, as have been asserted.

Elijah, after a fast of forty days, received the revelation of the nature and manifestation of God in the still small voice.

Daniel, after a fast of twenty-one days, received the revelation of "What shall befall thy people in the latter days." (Dan. 10:2).

Ezra, Esther, and Anna fasted till they heard from heaven.

On the fourth day of a fast, it was revealed to Cornelius where he would find Peter. through whom he would receive the Gospel. (Acts 10:30).

St. Paul, after a fast of thirteen days, received the revelation that he would not perish, but would be brought before Caesar, and that his prayers for the lives of his shipmates would be answered by their preservation. (Acts 27:21-23).

Luther fasted for days at a time while translating the Bible, and herein, undoubtedly, lives the secret of his unrivaled translation. His great faith was likewise largely the revelation of God's presence, which comes only through Prayer and Fasting.

Jesus fasted in order that prayer might become prayer in the highest sense—might reach its highest intensity. He blazed the way that we are to follow.

We could give scores of references in addition to those already mentioned both from

the "Word" and of recent experiences from "power through fasting."

Every minister owes it to his congregation every teacher to his pupils, every Christian to his brethren to be at his best spiritually, and we have seen that it is impossible without prayer and fasting.

Should we wait for God to lay a fast burden upon us? No, not necessarily, for the simple reason if we waited for God to lay a prayer upon us, there would be very little prayer. Regardless of the way we feel, we do not wait for God to lay a prayer upon our hearts; if there is a real need, we pray. There are times that God does lay special burdens of prayer and fasting upon us, but we should not wait for them when we see the need.

It is impossible to describe the spiritual results, but it gives one the faith that Jesus speaks of, and drives out unbelief so that the seemingly impossible can be made possible.

We marvel at the mighty miracles of Paul. We are told his great secret "in fastings often" (II. Cor. 11:27). If the real secret is known of the great revival campaigns where thousands have been converted it is through those who have a burden for souls and get away somewhere to pray and fast.

All of the miracles and revelations in the Bible days and today have been brought about, either directly or indirectly through this great power team.—Prayer and Fasting.

IT IS TIME TO REPENT!

Oh, to hear the Trumpet Blown in Zion Calling Men to Prayer!

By Armin Gesswein

The church is not geared to the revival standard. We are static, stale and sterile with the shibboleths of a former glory. Where we do taste of the heavenly bread we reserve it for certain seasons and conventions. It is not our standard. We are comfortable and at ease in Zion.

The world is rocked in the cradle of war's great deep but we in the church are on the shore lines. The world is on fire and the church is lukewarm. The world is in the throes of a crisis. The church is in a slump. Easy chairs now fill the Upper Room. We sit and visit in the place our fathers labored, sweat and wept in prayer. It is true we do not bow our knee to Baal. But neither do we bow in burdened prayer to God. We rock on in ease!

Even when the Upper Room is not allowed to degenerate into a supper room, it is still not used to generate revivals. Most of its "fundamental" members do not smoke, chew, or drink. They do not go to shows or dance. Neither do they kneel much or go to prayer meetings and get on-fire for God to win perishing souls. The Upper Room now has its own slides and movies. Almost any kind of a program is allowed there as long as it is "fundamental" and does not lead to open sin—or open intercession.

Of late years a new kind of prophet and "prophecy" has come to be staged in our churches. These new prophets have brought in a sensational "prophecy" that banks the fires of intercessory prayer while packing the room. It quenches the spirit of faith for present revival with a form of prophetic pessimism that magnifies the apostasy more than the Holy Ghost.

Oh, for the day when the thousands who have been running with itching ears to hear some new sensational theme about a future vial or trumpet will hear again the trumpet blown in Zion for revival prayer meetings and run to prayer with as much eagerness. Any prophecy that does not minister prayer and faith for revival NOW is not of God. It is time for some repenting along these lines. Oh, for a return of the great day of the Lord when the preaching of Christ will once again attract crowds to the Upper Room instead of to speculations concerning some new Antichrist!

Altar fires must again be kindled in the Upper Room. They must not only burn there but hold priority there. The secret of revival is with the intercessors. All of us must and can become intercessors for revival. "These ALL continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."

We must patiently pray for a return of prayer. We must learn to pray. We must help to inspire prayer and do everything to make the churches mighty again in intercession. Before revival comes prayer must return to the churches of our land!—Abridged from The Alliance Weekly.

TO THE POINT

A bright boy, who had been taught the nature of strong drink and promised to shun it, one day visited a rich uncle. He offered the boy a glass of wine, which he declined. Wishing to see how far he could be tempted, he urged the boy to drink, and finally offered him the gift of a watch if he would drink. The boy declined, saying, "Please do not tempt me; if I keep a teetotaler I can some day buy a watch of my own, but if I drink and take your watch I may later on have to pawn it to get bread."—Sel.