

WINNING OUR COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST

This is a crucial hour of human history. Is it pressing the figure too far to say that the Church stands beside a dying world in a day of lost authorities, declining morals, shattered ideals and extreme confusion? It is an hour when men will heed the gospel of Christ or be lost in their own darkness. It is not a choice between two ways of salvation. The choice is between Christianity and confusion, between Christ and collapse. The choice cannot be delayed or deferred. The hour of decision is upon us. To delay is to take the plunge into the blackness of atheism and despair. Our community must be won and won now or the opportunity of evangelism will slip forever.

To this end let each church maintain its spirituality amid godless and materialistic surroundings. The supreme danger confronting the people of God in every age has been the problem of living superior to the hell-drift of the age.

Let each church group, each individual, dare to be different from those who are ruled by the spirit of anti-Christ. Their standards are not our standards, their manner of living is not our manner of living. We are to live a life that is God-conscious, Christ-centered and Spirit-filled.

The community will only be won to the Bible way of living by those who in their own daily living are controlled by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus. It is impossible to greatly impress our generation if we breathe its atmosphere, enjoy its pleasures, and are overwhelmed by its tragedies. He who directs men's minds from the material to the spiritual must himself live on a plane of spiritual victory superior to earth allurements and independent of the annoying things of time.

J. Brice in *Pentecost* said: "With the baptism of fire the disciples no longer tried to cultivate a protective resemblance to the world; but stood out from it courageously and challenged the strongholds of sin in the name of Christ . . . they who were formerly paralyzed by fear began to implement a world-compassing evangelism, and within three generations they had carried the gospel to the uttermost parts of the Roman Empire."

Only a heaven-sent revival can cleanse the Church of today from the blight of rationalistic modernism, and can stem the tide of lawlessness in our nation. This revival is to be brought about by ten thousand Spirit-filled men and women who will go where the masses are and tell them of Jesus the Mighty to save, men whose hearts are hot with divine love and who will spend and be spent for the lost and perishing. A woman recently stood up in a Sunday night service to testify. She said, "This afternoon the power of the Holy Spirit came upon me and I went out to visit a number of shut-ins. The Spirit convicted two and enabled them to repent of their sins and I saw them happy in a new-found joy as they surrendered themselves to Christ. I think this has been the happiest day of my life."

We can win some in our community if we will try. God's infinite resources are at our disposal and He bids us use them.

The call of the hour is that God's people will pray and fast until every church will become a red hot furnace of revival.

—Wesleyan Methodist.

DIVINE COMMUNION

A. B. Simpson

In II Timothy 1:6, "Stir up the gift of God that is in thee," the word "stir" is rendered in the margin of the Revised Version "stir into a flame." The figure is that of a smoldering fire. It has not gone out, but it is not burning brightly. How truly this is represented by the spiritual condition of many Christians. Their piety is a smoldering fire and needs to be stirred into flame.

In the old classic times, when the fire went out on the altars guarded by the Vestal Virgins, it was never allowed to be rekindled from earthly fires, but had to be lighted from the lightnings of the skies, the concentrated rays of the sun, or the friction of two pieces of combustible wood rubbed rapidly together. There are earthly fires from which we sometimes try to kindle our hearts: music, eloquence, poetry, sentiment, human sympathy. These are all false fires. We need the touch of the heavenly flame.

There is a suggestion in the friction of the ancient priests, of the contact with each other's hearts in the fellowship of prayer. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." There is no spiritual force to be compared with united prayer. Let there be the little gatherings and the perfect agreement of kindred hearts.

Do not be impatient because nothing immediately appears. Prayer is stored up in heaven, and there comes a day when the Lord announces as He did to Cornelius, "Thy prayers * * * are come up for a memorial before God." No breath of prayer that ascends to heaven ever fails to come back in showers of blessing.

There have been many foolish things in the teachings of psychology, but there is one thing that undoubtedly has much truth in it, namely, that somewhere in the depths of our being there is a subconscious world unknown even to ourselves where all the fountains of character, thought, and feeling have their source. The human soul is much larger than all that any of us at any moment feels or realizes. There are forces silently at work beneath the surface in this undiscovered region. Above all else, God has His dwelling there. And as far beyond all we see of His operations He is secretly working upon all the departments of our being. When we receive the Holy Spirit, He takes up His residence, not in our emotions or in our reason, but in the hidden depths of our inmost being; and He is working, often most effectually, when we may have the least feeling or sense of His presence. Therefore we are wisely taught not to be unduly controlled by any emotion or manifestation, but to trust the Holy Spirit to work in His own sovereign way and cause us "to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Many of the best prayers, therefore, are deeper and higher than we know. The Holy Spirit "maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." And our best prayers often are simply and silently to yield ourselves to the divine influence that is working within our hearts, perhaps in some undefined and unutterable reaching after God, and trust God Himself to interpret the prayer in His own way, and in His own time. As we thus pray the prayer of the Spirit, we shall always find a divine rest come back to our own hearts, and in due time the answer will appear

in some definite blessing for ourselves or others of which at the time we perhaps had no distinct conception.

There is a waiting on the Lord which is more than prayer; it is divine communion, and that heavenly contact of the heart of man with the heart of God which kindles into a flame the smoldering embers of our faith and love and joy.

WEDDINGS

On September 10th, Rev. A. D. Cann united in marriage Charles Edward Kearney and Velma Ruth Saunders at the groom's home.

OBITUARY

Wendell H. Phillips, respected citizen of Southampton, N. B., died suddenly at his home, August 29th, 1947.

The funeral service was held from the home, and was conducted by Rev. E. R. Watson, assisted by Rev. H. Robertson.

The choir of the Reformed Baptist Church, Woodstock, rendered three selections. Burial was made in the Upper Southampton cemetery.

Mr. Phillips is survived by three daughters, Mrs. S. A. Mullen, Me.; Mrs. L. Brownrigg, St. Stephen, N. B., and Mrs. J. J. Stairs, Southampton, N. B.

To the sorrowing we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

EPISTLES OF CHRIST

The Spirit of God is writing
His letters of love to men
In hearts that are wholly yielded,
In souls that are born again.

"Epistles of Christ," so surely
Sent forth with power from above,
To souls that are lost in darkness,
To tell of a Saviour's love.

The world will not read His Bible,
Your life it will surely heed;
Let Jesus indwell your being
And speak in your every deed.

Oh, ye who are trusting Jesus,
Redeemed at infinite cost,
Are you showing Christ to others,
And seeking to win the lost?

—Bessie Patten Gilmore

BIBLES OR CIGARETTES

One of the religious publishing houses in the United States appealed to the United States government to be given some permission to get paper for publication of Bibles. The privilege was refused quite discourteously on the expressed ground that the same paper that is used for Bibles is also used for cigarettes and there is a very great demand for cigarettes.

That is the sort of society we are now dealing with—a society with which cigarettes are more important than Bibles, even in a time when kingdoms are tumbling.

—Gospel Banner.

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."