

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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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"TRY PENTECOST"

E. W. Lawrence, London, England

The miracle of the Pentecostal anointing needs to be re-enacted in every individual believer's life. While it is true to say that we live in the dispensation of Pentecost, and as such every believer has the Spirit, yet to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire is something entirely different.

In his younger years, Lionel B. Fletcher was the member of quite an 'ordinary' church in the city of Adelaide in Southern Australia. Nothing of an exceptional nature ever happened. It was never expected to happen. But young Fletcher longed to be the means of the members conversion but lacked the authentic passion and power. Through the ministry of Archdeacon Tress who testified to having received a personal Pentecost, Lionel Fletcher himself received the Spirit's fullness. He later said that the greatest moment of his life was when he realized that "the mighty gift of the Holy Spirit was not only for the men of the New Testament days, but is available for the men and women of today." He also added, "Every blessing I have received since, every soul won and every church revived in my ministry, is the result of that night." O that it were so with us today. But it may be!

It was the same with Samuel Chadwick. One Saturday evening during his first pastorate, at Stacksteads, England, he realized that his life and ministry lacked the power of God. He received his Pentecost that same night at midnight, and it revolutionized his life, and started him on his apostolic ministry that has since spread to the four corners of the world. Writing in his "Way to Pentecost" he states: "I owe everything to the gift of Pentecost. It came to me when . . . I was about my Heavenly Father's business, seeking means whereby I could do the work to which he had called me. . . . It was gloriously wonderful . . . From the first day of my Pentecost I became a seeker and winner of souls."

One of the greatest days in the story of the Church of modern times was when the Holy Spirit "fell upon" the Moravians. On August 17, 1727, a few humble Moravians were gathered in their church at Herrnhut. The Spirit fell upon them, baptized them into a unity, and its effect revolutionized Europe and led to the inauguration of the modern missionary movement. The Moravians had sent their missionaries abroad fifty years before William Carey had entered India.

There is a similar story in the New Testament. When he arrived at Ephesus, Paul asked of the Christians: "Have ye received the

Holy Spirit since ye believed?" Their reply was a negative one, and their excuse that they knew not that the Holy Spirit had been outpoured. Under Apollos their ministry was academic and college trained, but it lacked the fire and passion of Pentecost. Later these Ephesians claimed their spiritual birthright and thus became a new power in the world.

Pentecost is therefore the need of the church today.

(1) **For Individual Believers.** And this includes the greater number of the readers of this magazine. In our daily round and common tasks our need is the baptism of the Spirit.

Our lives demand it. Our many sins have been forgiven and we are happy in a state of acceptance with God, yet in our inmost being, as the Scriptures declare, and our own experiences testify, there does remain an infection of nature. The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh so that we cannot do the things that we would. Therefore with the Apostle Paul we cry, "Wretched person that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" and with the song writer:

"Tell me what to do to be pure,
In the sight of the all-seeing eyes!
Tell me, is there no thorough cure,
No escape from the sins I despise?
Tell me, can I never be free
From this dreadful bondage within?
Is there no deliverance for me,
Must I always have sin dwell within?"

Here is Chadwick's answer to that problem: "Suppose we try Pentecost." He and others have 'tried' Pentecost and therein found deliverance from inbred sin and power for service.

What happened on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:4 says that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. That is only half the truth. The great danger is that oftentimes half the truth destroys and minimizes the whole of the truth. Acts 2:4 must be understood side by side with ch. 15, verses 8 and 9, and other similar texts. Pentecost brings purity of heart as well as power for service. The cleansing of the heart is one that is complete ("from all sin"), continuous ("cleanseth us from") and conditional ("if we walk in the light"), see 1 John 1:7-9.

Repression and counteraction, besides being unscriptural, fail to give us the required deliverance. Nowhere is repressive power ascribed to the blood of Christ in the word of God, but always a thorough cleansing away of the traitor of carnality.

A vision of the holiness of God as the dis-

ciples received in the upper room while 'tarrying' for Pentecost—"We have seen . . . God is light, and in him is no darkness at all"—enabled them to discover the depth of inbred sin in their own hearts, and the day of Pentecost brought them not only power, but also the purifying efficacy of the glorious baptism of the Holy Spirit.

(2) **For those called to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.**

Such have been called to do the greatest work upon earth, a work that even the angels covet. Thousands of preachers of the Word, both ministerial and lay, as for example Lionel Fletcher, Samuel Chadwick and the Moravians mentioned earlier, declare that before receiving their Pentecost their words had almost no effect upon their hearers. It was Pentecost that revolutionized their ministry and life, that touched their lips with holy fire from off the altar of God, that set them ablaze and made them invincible. Pentecost made them soul seekers and soul winners. It is the need today.

(3) **For the Church as a Whole.**

In contrast to the Apostolic Church which shook the old Roman world to her very foundations, to the early Methodist Church that saved Britain from the horrors of the French Revolution, to the Moravian Church that turned Europe upside down, the church of today is weak, ineffective and impotent amid an alien and a pagan world. And this is because although we know the Living Presence, we have not progressed to Pentecost.

"But! If the Church would move to Pentecost, nothing could arrest its triumph, and its thousands of unsatisfied believers would have found something better."—Rev. Joe Brice.

Pentecost is our need. But the church of today labors without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is our birthright, our inheritance, and it is receivable NOW in faith and consecration if we are willing to "count the cost."

Christ sent us to turn you from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God, that you may receive the forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith in Jesus. Will you therefore Try Pentecost Today?

Christ came into the world to manifest God; we are here to manifest Christ. The great thought of my mind and the object of my life is to be like Him.—James Gilmour of Mongolia.

When gossips meet, the devil can sit down and rest.