

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

By W. Edmund Smith

GOD'S RESOURCES FOR OUR NEED

"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil: IV, 19.

Need! Supply! These are arresting words and as old as man fresh from the hand of God, and as modern as the recent cry for butter, beefsteak and nylons. We often use Want as a synonym of need. But often there is a great gap between these words. The little child wants everything he sees, and thinks his little mouth the proper receptacle for everything he can lay his hands on. He sees the sharp razor, or the scissors or the matches and he wants them all. When intercepted by motherly love he will raise an insurrection and begin hostilities without even a declaration of war. He manifests his want in every part of his little body when his wants are frustrated. If he be able to walk, he will throw himself upon the floor and kick and scream, and cry. He may want the razor but he really needs a good spanking and happy is that mother who can administer it in the spirit of motherly love.

And big folks are not much better in their discrimination between their Needs and their Wants. Only that inherent selfish carnal spirit grows stronger with the passing of the years. Needs are based upon the individual's moral, spiritual, intellectual and physical necessities, while wants spring so often from the pride, the vanity, the selfishness of the human heart. No, I am not putting life down to the low level of the barest necessities but upon the higher plane in which all material things minister to our highest good. This is the secret of a happy life, and is never attained without severe self-discipline made possible by the best the Holy Ghost can work in us by his power divine.

This selfish Want has been the cause of all wars international, economic, and domestic. Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard and when denied the field, had a pouting spell and went to bed. All the vast territory he ruled over could not satisfy him when that little field was denied him. Jezebel solved the problem and made a coup that slew Naboth and took his vineyard. It was the want for power and dominion that gave Britain her far-flung empire. She now finds that she does not really need it all and is gradually handing it over to the peoples interested.

Yes! wants spring so often from the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Solomon didn't need a thousand wives and concubines but he seems to have wanted them, and got them. When things go wrong in the home, often the wife or the husband thinks he or she needs a change of partners. Loose marriage laws make the readjustment soon possible. But they find they need something more than a change to make them really happy. But they keep on, till America becomes a cess-pool of marital corruption.

Often the wife has a comfortable home and a hard-working husband, but she sees the neighbor living in a home luxuriously furnished and she wants the same, and voices her dissatisfaction in complaint and recrimination against the husband's ability to furnish better. This spirit runs to the newest models of autos and all the multiplied things like diamonds and jewels displayed in the window. Looking at things every shopkeeper knows, arouses desire, and creates wants. Often a person goes down the street with quite some money in her

pocket and doesn't feel she needs a thing, but Alas, something beautiful strikes the eye and she carries it home and puts the landlord off for the next month's rent.

This word **Want** has a deeper content. The seraphic John Fletcher was a man of giant intellect and gained recognition from his King, who asked him what the king could do for that holiness preacher that would please him! The King expected of course, he like all the others would ask for a much larger parish, with a more liberal stipend. Fletcher was vicar in the uncultured and poor parish of Madeley. He lived most economically, giving most of his food and money to the poor. But in reply to King George he said: "I thank you for your kindly interest in me, but all I ask for is more of the grace of God in my heart that I may better serve this humble people." Fletcher remained there till he died in Glory by Christ Jesus. Yes! God will get even with you. You have done it unto him not unto Paul.

How small the portion of the one who, through carnal pride instead of recognizing a true man of God, and treating as in the stead of Jesus, will allow his or her carnal prejudice to try to frustrate, to humiliate and mortify him! They miss the opportunity for larger blessing when they fail at this point. If we have the real blessing of God in our hearts we would fain give blessings all the best to those who hate us and despitefully use us, while at the same time warning them of the failure and doom that come from a carnal disposition.

I fain would elaborate here longer, but I must desist. What an opportunity we have for investment! Andrew Carnegie and Henry Ford made many millionaires even while they themselves were making multi-millions. But Charles Michael Schwab, one whom Carnegie made a millionaire, lost all his money and died living on borrowed money. Of seven great industrialists who met in a Chicago hotel in 1925, and who controlled more money than was in the United States treasury, two served long prison terms, three committed suicide and the other two died insolvent. These men, by newspaper writers and magazine essayists were for years held up to the American youth as examples of prosperity to be emulated. Look at their sad ending in 25 years and weigh against a grain of sand the glory of being a rich man. I got this information from the Boston Globe.

Beloved, you and I can be rich in grace and we are masters of the supply for we can keep the line open. God has chosen the poor of this world rich in faith. It grieves God to think He has so much for us and we are satisfied with so little. He gives us a great check book of thirty thousand promises and says draw on me for all your need. Yes, we can make 1949 the best year yet, even though the trials multiply. These last few years to me, have been through trials and stings I never thought I might have to endure. I might have met some things better than I have. But Hallelujah, this the day after Christmas, finds an exultant shout in me.

As we all face the New Year we each and all want to see it the best year of our lives. God is more interested than we can possibly be to make it all that for every one of us. Yes! If last year has so far been the best we have ever seen, still we can sing, "The best is yet to come." It will not come to us by fortuitous chance. By the grace of God each one of us is the master of the New Year, not as to accidents, disease, losses and crosses and all else that may come, in the hurley-burly of life. But

let us remember if you and I are in the sweet will of God nothing comes by chance. Some of us have been weaving the web of life for many years. Sometimes we put some wrong threads in the shuttle that did not correspond to the true pattern. Things came to us that we at the time could not understand and we may have been inclined to cry, "Why is this happening to me?" But when we have held steady we found this it was the very thing that we needed to develop in us moral and spiritual courage, love and stamina. The things we once wept over now we can shout over. And we have found that God met our need in the complex working of the intricacies of life. And what the devil tried to use to send us to hell God by the supply of his grace, made stepping stones to glory and to God. Hallelujah!

Paul write these words out of the fulness of a heart of love and appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the Philippian church, who remembered him in prison, and instead of thinking God would let down from heaven food and good things for the apostle, got busy, prayed for him, and then put hands to their prayers and sent him a bountiful supply of their best provisions. I warrant Paul shouted over that basket and wept over it tears of joy, and prayed more ardently than ever for those who had sent it. And he wrote and told them all the love and appreciation of his heart. This was more than the recognition of a Christmas card or a gift even of considerable value. It came from a heart big enough to take in the whole world, but which had a special love for the loveable and thoughtful Philippians whom he called his "Joy and his Crown."

And he tops it all by more than saying it. I think he felt like shouting it. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in my soul. I spent the half of Christmas visiting men, aged, afflicted or helpless. I sang some carols to them, prayed with them, left them a little souvenir of love and went on my way rejoicing. This is how we get more of grace—when we give out what we have received. "There was a man some people called him mad, the more he gave away the more he had." Serving God and preaching is my business. I make some tents on the side. 1948 has been a great year to my soul. I have lacked for nothing and have done some hustling. Heaven is not bankrupt! God is still paying big dividends on an investment of our little all! The abiding of the Holy Ghost is real in the wholly sanctified heart! This is something that lasts if we meet the conditions and glory in the Cross and keep our policy paid up. Amen!

OBITUARY

Mrs. Edith Green. On October 31st the Reformed Baptist Church and community of Seal Cove, Grand Manan, suffered a loss in the passing of Mrs. Edith Green, widow of Coleman Green.

After a lingering illness of several months, she passed away at the Grand Manan Hospital, North Head.

The funeral service was conducted by her pastor, Rev. Ronald T. Sabine, assisted by Rev. Mr. Ramsey, of the Christian Advent Church, Woodard's Cove, and a mixed quartette of the Reformed Baptist Church. Interment was made in the Seal Cove cemetery.

She leaves to mourn her loss, one son, Wallace, and many friends.

To the sorrowing ones we extend our sympathy.