

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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## EDITORIAL

### WINDOWS OF HEAVEN—ARE THEY OPENED OR CLOSED?

By Rev. F. A. Dow,  
Editor, "Can. Free Methodist"

It was a most gracious proposition which the Lord of Hosts made to the church of the Old Testament as recorded in Malachi 3:10. There He pledged His word that if they would cease their backslidings and return unto the Lord, to obey His precepts and keep His commandments, He would then pour out upon them superabundant and uncontainable blessings.

"I will open the very sluices of heaven to pour a blessing down," is James Moffat's translation of the promise; and that brings before the mind inexhaustible reservoirs of heavenly grace, held back as by a great dam but ready to be released when certain conditions are met.

The withholding of the tithes and offerings which the Lord commanded to be brought into the storehouse was an unmistakable symptom of their having left their first love to fall into a deplorable spiritual decline which brought upon themselves a sad condition of poverty, frustration, confusion, and defeat. In this miserable state they murmured and complained and raised the question as to what profit there was in keeping up their religion.

As it was with the church of the Old, so it is with the church of the New Testament — there is no substitute for simple obedience. We may ransack the universe in a frantic effort to find something which will be acceptable to God in the place of doing His revealed will, but it will never be found. From various quarters comes the pathetic complaint of the lack of spiritual power and grace to make the church of today a mighty, aggressive, conquering force in a world which is threatened by complete domination by the powers of darkness.

To the church of Jesus Christ has been given the exceeding great and precious promises of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a measure more than sufficient to overcome and triumph over all the power of the world, the flesh and the devil. Why then the widespread spiritual poverty, weakness and defeat?

There is no mystery about it. The answer is plainly written in the Word. The mammon-worshipping, pleasure-seeking, man-pleasing,

disobedient church must renounce its departure from pure religion, it must confess and forsake its carnal-mindedness, and it must meet the conditions for a mighty, overflowing baptism of the Holy Spirit. Nothing less than this can meet the need of our day. We can confidently expect a superabundance of heavenly power and blessing only if we will cast off our indulgence and dependence in the flesh and simply obey God.

On the Nile River in Egypt is the world-famous Assuan Dam which is 144 feet high and over a mile and a quarter long. There are 180 great sluiceways through which, when open, the mighty river pours out its stored-up, life-giving flow to irrigate six million acres of otherwise barren land and to generate power and light which has caused the desert to rejoice and to blossom as the rose. The government once took a party of natives to view this mighty project which had been constructed for their benefit; but the majority of the group were admiring the little spurting fountains along the course of the dam and were much more occupied with them than with the purpose of the colossal engineering feat and the mighty cataracts roaring through the sluiceways.

We observe that there is rising up among us a generation which has never seen a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit; and the tragedy of it is that they seem content to occupy themselves with a very superficial type of religion. Where there is fun, feasting, frolic, and the display of human talent, thither they are found gathered together to walk in the light of their own fire and the sparks of their own kindlings. Eventually these are found among those who complain of the ineffectiveness of religion.

The great challenge of God to bring all the tithes into the storehouse, to dedicate themselves to a wholehearted return to Him, to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and to wait on Him in humble confession and prayer until all the sluiceways of heaven are opened for a mighty, overflowing out-pouring of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit for world-wide revival waits to be accepted.

Such a blessing is stored up for us. Disobedience and human substitutes for true religion have closed the windows of heaven, but simple obedience will open them wide.

The Lord of Hosts has pledged His Word, and He invites us to prove Him now.

### PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Joseph H. Smith

Andrew has not as much attention from us as he deserves. He is due a fame for bringing others to Christ. Yet, it was he that brought those Greeks (which some rate as the first gentile converts). And it was he that brought the little box, whose lunch basket figured in the feeding of thousands under the blessing of the Lord. And I am not sure but that the brightest star in Andrew's crown will be that of his own brother, Simon Peter (see John 1:42).

A master-piece of personal evangelism may be seen in John 4, where in a hot dinner preparation, Jesus, tired, thirsty and alone, accosts a strange and erring woman, of an alien and unfriendly people, and before his disciples could get back from market, had her nicely saved and witnessing for the gospel till a revival started lasting two days and many were

converted to God.

A train crier in a union depot (for thirty years) told me he averaged a soul a day brought to the Savior.

An invalid man shut in up in a second story room that faced a main street in the town, sighted young fellows as they frequented saloons and billiard rooms, got their names, wrote them letters, had them come to visit him and by the time I talked with him, had 117 converted, a number of whom were then in the ministry.

In the great public revivals, valuable as is the preaching, (and some of the singing) the personal work at the altars, and in the congregation is a most important and vital factor. Many are halting and hesitating—and some that are opposing and refusing, are led to yield; and group prayer circles right out there, have saved many. It is no small art, when seekers are at the altar, to direct and not interrupt their praying by wise, timely counsel and help. I think it was some forty thousand souls, that Milton Haney, long before his ministry had ended, modestly witnessed that he had helped over the bar at altar services.

Paul sometimes gets the credit of the conversion of Timothy, but this is an error. True, he was his gospel son in the ministry, and we think we can show a Scripture which indicates that the apostle had led him to the Pentecostal baptism; but as to his conversion, this is to be credited to his grandmother and mother in their home evangelism. Timothy had such good standing in the church before Paul ever met him, that the apostle saw there was preacher timber in him, and took him away with him.

Exhortation is the second highest art of which we are capable. It is a valuable hand-aid to the first, which is intercession.

Education or scholarship does not lead to exhortation, but to looking and listening for "some new thing" until, at length, it must erect an altar to the Unknown God. Even doctrination may lead to discussion and division, unless it be inflamed with a burning zeal for the immediate acceptance of Christ. Our Lord told the Samaritan woman there were only two things she needed to know in order to her offering the prayer that would lead to her receiving the living water. Theological seminaries may prove to be cemeteries for evangelism. We know of one great denominational college, which in our youthful ministry was famous for the evangelistic bishops, elders, pastors and missionaries in its alumni, which in a later day could count among its freshmen, some ninety that had felt the call of God to the ministry, and had come there to prepare. At the end of their four year course, and at their commencement, less than forty of these had any thought of the ministry. All was higher learning or faculty position.

Timothy was already a preacher of some experience, a pastor and connected with the presiding eldership of churches in a considerable area, when the apostle, instead of having him relax from revivalism, urged him to "Do the work of an evangelist."

Much of this is knee work.

We heard Bishop Taylor say that when God gave him assurance of answer to his prayer for the salvation of a soul, he very generally employed him to take some part in the actual bringing of that answer to pass.

—Christian Witness.