

is ever "He must increase but I must decrease" (John 3:30), and where there is far deeper undersanding of that apostolic yearning—"That I may know Him" (Phil. 3:10). These are sacred things indeed, and we stand on holy ground. These go far in testing and determining the true state of heart towards His own precious, peerless Person.

But beloved, there is no place, richer, fuller, deeper, sweeter than this. The place of being absolutely nothing in every sense of the term, so that HE may absolutely become completely EVERYTHING. It is easy to put this to paper, and it is easy perhaps to read in passing moments. It is easy perhaps to agree with, but not so easy to be agonized over! Yet, we can say that this formed the sacred secret of McCheyne's life and labor; and what availed for him, awaits for our claiming, when we are touched and troubled enough to make this the crux and core of heart and life. To be preaching and singing and serving, "Christ for Christ's sake"; to never get a credit, nor an applause nor a human commendation for it, and to be rejoicing in that, knowing that HE is more clearly manifested therein . . . oh beloved! to be verily able to break down with "strong crying and tears," and to whisper as did McCheyne, "Lord, give me this!"—Sel.

BURNING HEARTS

The Holy Bible is a continued story of burning hearts. Two outstanding symbols of Bible salvation are Blood and Fire. Bible religion is a religion of blood and fire. Both are essential. Both run through Scripture as a thread of red and white. Blood and Fire.

In the Garden of Eden the first blood was shed and in the Garden of Eden the flaming sword was seen. The coats of skins and sword of flame were both seen in "Paradise Lost." The first four books of the Bible constitute a continued story of burning altars and the shedding of blood. The New Testament is one long narrative of redeemed hearts, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and burning lives, burning themselves out in tireless self-denial, sacrifice and glad testimony for God and Holiness. In the Old Testament we behold burning altars and in the New Testament we see burning hearts. In the Old Testament we see altars on fire and in the New Testament we behold the souls of believers on fire. From Abel's bleeding lamb and burning altar in the book of Genesis to the grand climax in the book of Revelation, the story is one and the same, a story of blood and fire. Altars on fire and men on fire.

The Blazing Altar

There is an increasing emphasis today upon forms and ceremonies. The Bible emphasis is upon blood and fire. It is impossible to walk with God and remain cold, icy, clammy or lukewarm. To prate about poise in the pulpit and dignity which becomes a minister behind the sacred desk while men around are dying and hell beneath opens wide and heaven above beckons is proof positive of amazing ignorance of both God and the Word of God. The God who set Abel's altar on fire is the same today. The God who sent fire upon the altar of Abraham, and burned up his bullock, ram, goat, pigeons and dove is the same today. The God who touched the rock and gave water, fire and honey out of the rock is the same today.

The Uniting Flame

The companion of Cleopas may have been Luke the Evangelist. As they walked with Christ to Emmaus they felt a burning in their hearts and fire in their bones. Christ walked with them, touched them and set their souls aglow. A cold heart has never been near the Christ of God. An icy soul in the pulpit or pew knows nothing of God or His great salvation. The story of the Holy Bible, the story of world-wide evangelism, the story of the establishment of the church of Jesus Christ is a story of trail-blazing and fire. Men and women in all walks of life have burned their way through the fiery furnaces of kings and emperors of all the ages. Despite lion's dens and dirty prisons, they blazed a trail along which few are worthy to follow.

"Did not our heart burn," are five never-to-be-forgotten words. The word "our" is plural. The word "heart" is singular. Two men with one heart. The presence of Christ makes two men one. Burning hearts will spell the death and destruction of all disharmony and discord. All petty disputes and differences are put away and forgotten in the presence and company of Christ.

"The Live Coal"

Christ changes everything and everyone He touches. The God of the Bible once touched a mountain and the mountain blazed and burned with fire and glory. The God of the Bible entered an insignificant thorn bush and the bush blazed and burned but was not consumed. It was cleansed, fired, purified, but not consumed. This is the need of the church throughout the world.

The face of a Moses and a Stephen becomes aglow with the fire and shine of the presence of God. Saul of Tarsus was a calculating, cold, educated, austere and sincerely unselfish religionist until he met the Christ of God. That meeting changed him and changed the world. The world has never been the same since that meeting. Even his name was changed. Across the continents he blazed a trail for God and holiness, and his fame and faithfulness are known round the world. Fox, Wesley, Asbury, Booth, Knapp, Bresee and a thousand others have touched millions of men because they were touched with the live coals from off the altars of God.

The Spreading Fire

If our children and youth are ever to be converted and cleansed here and saved from everlasting burnings hereafter, they must be brought into vital and daily contact with a holy brotherhood of burning hearts. If men are ever to be saved and sanctified here and preserved from unending burnings hereafter it will be because of the presence and ministry of burning hearts, fire-baptized souls and lives, hot with the fervor and glow of old-time holiness. Oh, for a brigade of burning hearts.

Four times in the four Gospels the promise is seen, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."—W. G. H.

FORGIVEN MOST, MOST IN DEBT

Our indebtedness begins when all our debts are fully paid.

Yes, blessed paradox of grace, this is the lesson of the parable of the two debtors, with its wonderful teaching about the fountain of love that God opens in the freely pardoned

soul. "When they had nothing to pay, He frankly forgave them both." He that is forgiven most will love most. Love is the current coin of God's realm. Heaven's dues are only payable in love.

Nothing, therefore, is so conducive to true holiness as the Gospel of the free grace of God. When face to face with the law, we begin at once to discount its claims, and substitute outward conformity for loyal obedience. But when God's grace is revealed to the soul, and we learn that we are forgiven freely for Christ's sake, then a new sense of indebtedness and a new power of love are awakened. But for this the forgiveness must be absolutely free. Let the least thought of merit enter, and the love is damaged, if not destroyed. For the rule is: "He that is forgiven much will love much."

A shallow estimate of sin leads to a low estimate of pardon and a little love. A deep sense of sin leads to a high estimate of pardon and a great love. If there is any thought of merit, if the debtor thinks he can pay one farthing in the pound, the sense of sin cannot be deep, the love cannot be strong.

Let all who value holiness magnify the free grace of God. Nothing but free sovereign grace can deal a deathblow to man's pride. Not till we submit to the righteousness of God is the broken and contrite heart created within us. And that is the only sacrifice God accepts, the only soil for love and true holiness.

—Living Waters.

INITIATIVE

I have often made the statement that there is a place where faith leaves off and presumption begins, and I think that accounts for a lot of failures. We ask the Lord to help us do something and the real reason for asking is that we just want to do it, and that brings us to another attribute of men which I think sometimes gets mixed up with faith, and that's initiative. This thing we call initiative is something that's a little hard to define, but we know some people have a lot of it and others not so much. The Creator who made this earth and all those worlds out there in space must have a lot of what we call initiative, and He made us in His own likeness. So I guess that's why there is more or less of it lurking in every human breast. We all like to do things. I'm not saying that the great things done by some of the great Christians were all just initiative. No doubt there was a lot of real faith in it. But I still think that probably initiative played a part, too, and it would be difficult to weigh them in percentages.

I am also convinced that the nearer a man gets to God, the more initiative he has to mix with his faith and leaves no room for presumption.

A HEART cannot remain pure that is not passionate. A pure heart will be passionate and will see of the travail of the soul and be satisfied.

WEDDINGS

Brewster—MacRAE

A pretty wedding took place at the Reformed Baptist Parsonage June 30, 8 p.m., when Rev. H. E. Mullen united in marriage Percy Brewster and Ada MacRae. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Crawford of Doak. The happy couple will reside in Fredericton.