

POWER FOR THE TASK

By William E. Schubert

Why did Jesus tell His first missionaries: "Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until ye be indued with power from on high?" Why did He spend almost the entire last evening before His crucifixion, telling them about the covenant promise of the Father, the coming of the Holy Ghost, the account of which covers nearly four chapters of John's Gospel? Why were His last words before His ascension: "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you"?

He wanted them to receive the Holy Ghost because a great task awaited them, a task which could not be accomplished by mere human ability unaided by a surplus of divine power. It is no easy matter to stir an entire city, much less an entire nation to repentance; but they were to "turn the world upside down." Anyone who has tried to raise up laborers as they did, without great funds, or with no funds, will know it is no easy task. Yet as they preached and prayed, men left all to follow Christ.

Receive Power

And there has been a succession of saints and martyrs, of holy witnesses, from that day to this, and ever shall be by the grace of God, especially if we are true and obey in this, as they did. Yes, "ye shall receive power."

They needed the Holy Ghost because all the forces of evil were arrayed against them, as against us today, entrenched wrong in church, and society. They were to be slandered, threatened, killed, and there must be no weak spot in their armor, no Achilles heel; for too much depended on them, as on us. God help us!

It must be with them as with their Lord: "the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." Threats must bring no fear, flattery no pride, slander no regrets, death no flinching. They tarried, the fire fell, they met the test, and we are here to tell the tale, proof that the story is true.

Great barriers stood in their way, as in ours; race barriers, cultural barriers, language barriers, class barriers, which only the fire of a holy consuming love could burn away.

Yet after Pentecost, Peter went to Cornelius, the hated Roman; Paul the Jew preached to and ate with the Gentiles, cultured Greeks taught the barbarians of Europe; difference of language could not deter them, for God performed a miracle and their hearers understood; slaves in Caesar's household preached the Blood Gospel to their masters, and prisoners to their guards; and all with such love and self-forgetfulness, such holy zeal and boldness that rich men gave their all, and soldiers threw away their swords and stood beside their Christian prisoners to be devoured by lions in the arena.

That is what we need today. We have as great a task, as great opposition, as great barriers, and we can get as great results, for we have as great a Lord, and the same Holy Ghost power is available for us that was given to them. The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call' (Acts 2:39).

Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces.—Matthew Henry.

HINDRANCES TO FAITH

P. W. Thomas

1. Covered or unconfessed sin hinders and obstructs faith. The Psalmist said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). Hiding and covering sin is in itself a great sin against God and as long as we are sinning against Him, and knowing that He knows of our sin, we simply cannot, in the very nature of things, trust Him for forgiveness and answers to prayer. It is for this reason that, although God has promised to forgive all manner of sin, no unconfessed sin is ever forgiven.

2. We cannot have faith when we are consciously holding anything back from God—when withholding anything that makes our consecration complete and final. We are justified by faith, we are sanctified wholly by faith, and by faith alone. This is the clear, definite teaching of the Word. Yet we cannot possess that full assurance of faith, and we cannot fully trust God to receive us, unless we are completely surrendered to His will and everything is entirely at His disposal.

When we consecrate we travel toward God; when we withhold we go away from Him. In this latter event, we simply cannot have faith that He will receive us.

3. Finally, we cannot have faith while surrendered to fear. The habits of unbelief are usually well established in our hearts, and it is only by a definite act of our will, and the intelligent, conscious exercise of faith, that we are finally able to escape from the monster of doubt. And fearfulness springs out of doubt and unbelief. Sometimes the devil spreads a trap for sincere souls just at this point. Out of a good desire not to profess what they do not possess, they are tempted to delay the essential step of faith until they shall have received some token from God, some feeling or some impression that they are accepted. They fail to see that this is a snare of the devil, and that what they are thus desiring is salvation by works, or by sight and not by faith.

Not infrequently it pleases God to withhold for a time the special manifestation of His Spirit in the soul after the consecration has been made and the step of faith honestly taken. And who are we to question the purposes and wisdom of the Almighty? Because He does not deem it best to deal with us all alike, is this any sign that His Word is untrue or that we are not to trust Him fully? Let the soul hold steady in obedience and faith. "Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Heb. 10:36). Perhaps there is some lesson to be learned, some hidden thing that God would show us.

In conclusion, let it be noted that the same principles that enabled us to have faith for pardon and for cleansing, will enable us to maintain a consistent blessed walk with God, hidden from the world, and alive to heavenly things, treading a path that grows brighter and brighter.—Holiness Mission Journal.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY OCT. 28TH

Please note the date and let all the churches prayerfully plan to promote the cause of Home Missions.

See the next issue of The Highway.

A SEVENFOLD SUGGESTION

1. That we spend no time in discussing the faults and shortcomings of others.
2. That we freely confess our own faults, so that stumbling-blocks may thereby be removed from the path of others.
3. That we seek to be saved from looseness of conscience in these days of the general breaking down of the hedges of God's commandments.
4. That we test the possibilities of prayer.
5. That we show a charitable spirit towards all who do not agree with us.
6. That we cultivate the helping hand as well as the holy heart.
7. That we be punctual in all our engagements with God.—By J. B. MacLagan.

WEDDINGS

Mullen - Dunlop

On June 23rd, at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Vesta Irene Dunlop, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Dunlop, and Laurance Kendell Mullen, son of Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Mullen, were united in marriage. The bride's father performed the ceremony, assisted by the father of the groom.

Steward - Hancox

A pretty wedding took place at the Reformed Baptist Church Aug. 25th, when Loise Hancox became the bride of Kenneth Steward. The ceremony was performed by the writer.

H. E. MULLEN

Dwyer - Seeley

A pretty wedding was solemnized in the Reformed Baptist Church at 8 o'clock Friday night, Sept. 7th. The happy couple were Mr. Donald Dwyer and Miss Louise Seeley, both of Black's Harbour. To the newly weds we extend our congratulations. Rev. W. L. Fernley performed the ceremony.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Joseph Saunders passed away at her home on Barker Street, Fredericton, N. B., Aug. 20th. Although Mrs. Saunders had been in poor health for years her sudden home-going was a great shock to all. She was stricken with a shock at noon and passed away that same evening. The funeral service on Aug. 22nd was largely attended. There were many beautiful flowers. Rev. F. A. Watson, Rev. B. C. Cochrane and Rev. A. B. Gibson assisted the writer at the service. She leaves to mourn her death besides her husband, five sons, Murray and Vernon, of Fredericton; Lawrence and Arthur, of St. John, and Rev. Law, son Saunders, of Havelock, N. B. Her brothers are John Lawson and Bennet Lawson, of Fredericton, and George Lawson, of Lowell, Mass. Her sisters are Mrs. Roy Moore, Miss Pearl Lawson, and Mrs. Grace Bruce. Our sister will be greatly missed in the home and the church. It was a privilege to be the pastor of such a fine Christian woman.

H. E. MULLEN

The death of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill occurred on Sunday, the 2nd of September. The burial took place at Black's Harbour, Rev. Walter Fernley officiating. To the saddened parents we express our sympathy.

W. L. FERNLEY