



The King's Highway

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The Fruits of the Spirit

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Holiness is a necessity to the Christian life, and without it service for God becomes a formality, without joy or power.

Christ claims from His followers a surrender to His will so complete as to ensure continual victory because of His presence and power within, transforming the soul's inner experience. Now it is clear that a life so transformed, the personality radiant with the beauty of holiness, is bound to declare itself.

"If we live in the Spirit," says Paul, "let us also walk in the Spirit." That is to say, if we are living in the power of the Spirit, our conduct and behavior must be controlled by the Spirit. Thus the inward and invisible grace of the Spirit will manifest itself in all the everyday happenings of our lives in a variety of forms, but all good and beautiful.

In the Epistle to the Galatians Paul described these manifestations as "Fruits of the Spirit," and then mentioned many of them by name. His is a list of distinctly Christian virtues: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.

Such are the qualities that mark out the sanctified life and bring honor and glory to God. They support the professions we make in our testimonies. What we say about ourselves is backed up by what we do.

The possession and the demonstration of such qualities naturally make both testimony and labors for God acceptable and powerful. One who will resist the spoken word often yields; in surrender before an act of unselfish kindness. The coldest heart will be melted and the stoniest heart be broken by the warmth and tenderness of a loving spirit.

Let us remember that the early Apostles and their converts did not win their way and succeed in bringing men everywhere to God simply because they had a novel message or were adopting new methods. Neither was it because they pleased, or merely interested their audiences. Far from it, indeed.

They won their tremendous victories because, first and foremost, they were holy men and women. The beauty of Jesus was upon them, lighting their countenances, setting their hearts all aglow with loving enthusiasm for winning other souls. They were men and women surrendered to the leading of the Spirit, ready to go anywhere and to do anything for their Lord.

Oh, for a revival of such truly Christian living and fervor!

Our greatest requirement at the present time is a revival of those positive qualities that will reveal our Master. We must have more love for sinners—a love that will work and pray and believe for them; we need more patience with difficult people; more faith in and love for one another; more faith in God; gentleness and goodness, meekness and longsuffering, temperance and wisdom, courage and hope, justice and compassion. We need them all. They all belong to the sanctified life, the life of holiness.

But some, I know, are not in such a happy position. Some have resisted the Spirit's leading and have allowed thoughts and desires within which they know ought not to be there. They are holding back, fearing to go all the way, because it would mean the surrender of their will and the things they do not want to part with.

To these I say with all my heart, "Surrender now!" Resolve that from today nothing shall keep you out of the rich experience that God has for you. Whatever it is that has hindered you, cast it away forever, and the floodlight of the glory of God shall come into your soul with healing and quickening power, as in faith you take the promised blessing.

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

—Taken from Heart & Life.

GOD BURDEN US!

By Charles G. Finney

A revival will come when the sinfulness of mankind grieves, humbles and distresses Christians and Christians will weep day and night over sinners instead of scolding them. Let Hell boil over and spew out as many devils as there are stones in the pavements, if it only drives Christians to God in prayer, they cannot hinder a revival.

A revival will come when the Christians have a spirit of prayer for revival. A spirit of prayer is not merely many prayers and warm words, but is a state of continual desire and anxiety of mind for the salvation of sinners. Sometimes this burden becomes so great that the saints can neither eat, sleep nor live unless they see the salvation of sinners. A revival may be expected when the preaching and various activities of the church are aimed for the conversion of sinners. A proper use of scriptural means always brings a revival. A revival may be expected when Christians confess their faults in a contrite spirit.

The Flame of the Holy Spirit

We need the flame of the Holy Spirit. Like Elijah of old, we need to pray, "Lord, send the fire."

The Flame of the Holy Spirit will bring us warmth. Our hearts are so cold. The smoldering embers in the Church today testify of better days. The old glow is gone; the burning zeal for witnessing has vanished; the burning love for Christ—that first love—has become dim. The burning passion to see others won to Christ is no longer evident. Other things have crept in—they have dimmed the flame. "Quench not the Spirit," was the warning of the Apostle of old. Just that has happened everywhere. Lukewarmness is the result. Oh, that we might cry from the depths of our souls, "Lord, send the flame!"

The Flame will bring Purity.—So much that is un-Christlike has come in because the Flame is burning low or not at all. Much that is impure is evident on every side. Ashes of sin that have extinguished the fire are strewn everywhere. Division and strife in the midst of those bearing His name bring shame and reproach. Hatred and unforgiveness have created barriers that make the fellowship of saints impossible. Caste or class distinctions continue even among so-called Christians. Backbiting and criticisms bruise the body of Christ. Jealousy and envy sit in the councils of the Church. Hirelings fill many a position for self-gain while the spiritual thermometer drops lower and lower. The flame of the Holy Spirit is the only solution for sin, self-worldliness and all that is un-Christlike.

The Flame will bring Power.—Spiritual anemia has overtaken us. Weakness abounds. The power of the Holy Spirit is missing. We are busy scurrying about in the pursuit of substitutes, keeping time to the beat of statistics. We must keep up the appearances of achievement. But how appalling the little evidence of the Power which accompanies the Fire of the Holy Spirit. The miraculous is no more in evidence. The power of the early Church has evaded us. A sick world is crying out for the Church to lead the way. Statesmen are challenging the Church, reminding us that the world dilemma is first of all a spiritual problem. And yet we languish in our impotence and experiment with human resources.

When will we realize that it is the Flame of the Holy Spirit which will bring resources greater than our own—resources divine—to bear upon our needs?—Revival.