

The King's Highway

Mrs. Judson Hillman,
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Start Where You Are

Earle Frid

God's call to service is to every born-again believer. That means you. Never forget this truth: God definitely wants you to serve Him now. Do not wait for a special call. Do not wait for special training. Start where you are. In factory, farm office or kitchen, start where you are.

David did not wait until he was a king, he did not even wait until he was anointed, to start serving God. He started when he was a shepherd, where no one saw him, alone with his sheep and his God. And right where he was, in the course of his work, he did exploits with God. It was while minding sheep that he learned many of the lessons that he recorded in the psalms. There it was that the foundations were laid that made him a "man after God's own heart."

His walk with the Lord in the wilderness prepared him for his victory over Goliath, with an audience of thousands.

It was here that God proved that David could be trusted with a kingship. And this shepherd boy who always served God just where he happened to be, was honored by the Saviour of the world being known as "The Son of David."

It was not in the presence of Ahab that Elijah began to serve the Lord. Back home on the farm in Gilead he had been burdened about the idolatry of Israel and no doubt had been reminding God of His promise that He would withhold the rain if Israel sinned in this way. Some experience of the Lord's methods in similar situations lets us imagine what took place back there when Elijah was praying.

God probably had said, "All right, Elijah, I did say that I would withhold the rain, and because of your faith and prayers I will do it. Now you go to Ahab and tell him that because of Israel's sin there will be no rain until I send you to him again." "Oh, my Lord God," said Elijah, "who am I that I should go to the King with such a message? I only wanted you to keep Your Word and withhold the rain." "But," replied the Lord, "someone must tell them why the rain is withheld, and you are the only one interested enough to do something about it." Finally he was convinced and went.

This almost invariably happens. God puts a burden of prayer on a heart and then allows that one to answer his own prayer. However, God will never send an unprepared servant to do a task for Him. He always plans for our training. When Elijah took the message to Ahab he was obeying God but he was not

trained and prepared to call down fire from Heaven before Israel on Mount Carmel. He still had to spend time in God's training school.

During the following three years Elijah got used to seeing miracles. Every meal was a miracle. But he saw God perform three different types of miracles, each one a step in his training. In the first one Elijah had no part. He simply saw the miracles of ravens bringing him food twice daily. He had a part in the second one, in that he had to make the announcement and speak the word of faith to the widow. The third miracle was entirely at the instigation of Elijah. When the widow's child died he expostulated with the Lord, and, being used to seeing God work he asked Him to "let the child's soul come into him again." And the child lived. This was a great miracle but it was done in the privacy of Elijah's room. He had not yet been ready to do such a miracle in public. Now he was ready. He called fire down from Heaven and turned Israel to God in one day. But he had started serving God back home on the farm.

You can get all of the illustrations you want. God found a frightened man, of a lowly family, of the least of all the tribes of a thoroughly defeated nation and called him a "mighty man of valor" which He had termed him when he was hiding behind the winepress.

Start where you are! God needs you! His strength is made perfect in weakness. All you have to supply is the weakness and the willingness. God will throw the switch that releases the "power that worketh in you," and His purposes will be fulfilled in you. Why not start right where you are?—World Conquest

HOLY FIRE

"The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar."

Keep the altar of private prayer burning. This is the very life of all piety. The sanctuary and family altars borrow their fires here, therefore let this burn well. Secret devotion is the very essence, evidence, and barometer of vital and experimental religion.

Burn here the fat of your sacrifices. Let your closet seasons be, if possible, regular, frequent, and undisturbed. Effectual prayer availeth much.

Let us examine ourselves on this important matter. Do we engage with lukewarmness in private devotion? Is the fire of devotion burning dimly in our hearts? Do the chariot wheels drag heavily? If so, let us be alarmed at this sign of decay. Let us go with weeping, and ask for the Spirit of grace and of supplication.—Spurgeon.

Hotter Fires Imperative

By Claude A. Ries

In this soft age the sterner characters of God is seldom portrayed. The writer to the Hebrews declared "our God is a consuming fire." Isaiah speaking of God asks, "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?" Then he answers his own question. John, the Revelator, describes Christ having "eyes as a flame of fire."

Fire bespeaks judgment. The righteous wrath of God is at work in this sin-sodden world now but it will reach its climax of intensity and consummation at the Judgment when "the heavens and earth, . . . are reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

Sinner friend, just as surely as God is in His heaven your unconfessed sins will face you before Him whose flaming eyes will pierce through your sin-laden soul. "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven . . . in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:7, 8).

Sin must be judged now or hereafter. "Some men's sins are open beforehand (faced with Christ now) going before to judgment; and some men they follow after" (I Tim. 5:24). All whose sins follow them, unconfessed and unforgiven, will face them in the Judgment with no hope of forgiveness but with everlasting condemnation and damnation.

Saved man, God-cleansed man, you too are coming to Judgment—a fiery judgment of your works for "the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (I Cor. 3:13).

To be in harmony with a pure God we too must be pure by allowing the refining fires of God to burn out everything unlike God. Yes, blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God"—see Him now and see Him with joy at the Judgment.

In the Spirit-baptized soul there is engendered by God a Fire which purifies and inflames the life. Since God is a Consuming Fire, His people likewise must be blazing furnaces if they would be God-like

With the stepped-up zeal and fire of communism and of the cohorts of evil, the only answer of the Church is FIRE, God-fire supernaturally and fully possessing God's people. Then the Fire of God's Word will cleanse and burn the dross in the hearts of men; the Fire of God's refining grace will constantly transfigure, transform the life more and more like unto His glorious image and the Fire of the Spirit's out-breathing will give full enable-

(Continued on Page 8)