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## Cleansing and Conquest

By Rev. R. G. Flexon

Cleansing, practical Christianity, and conquest are inseparable. The baptism of the Holy Ghost on the day if Pentecost did many things for the disciples, but there were three outstanding things which it did, namely: gave purity of heart, righteous practice or behavior, and progress or enabled them to do conquests for the kingdom.

Purity. "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Practice. "... and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." "And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." How did the people recognize that they had been with Jesus, and why were they called Christians? No doubt it was because they acted like Christ, their behavior or practice was Christlike. Progress. "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." Such descriptive phrases indicate conquest with a vengeance.

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The greatest need of the Christian church is for personal purity. It is not only cleansing from outward transgression that is needed but an inward heart purification. It is not only a cleansing from disobedience but a cleansing of the disposition. When the disciples were baptized with the Holy Ghost they were delivered from the sin principle and not from the practice of sin. It is not the so-called great sins of the sinner that are hindering the growth of the church but the bad tempers of worldly professors of religion that cause many people to turn away from the paths of righteousness. The bad tempers, gossiping tongues, evil surmisings, envious looks, and jealous placeseeking are disastrous to the church. The new birth and the heart cleansing wrought through entire sanctification are followed by a practical life of holiness and freedom from the symptoms listed above.

#### Practice or Behaviour

Those people who expect to go to a holy heaven should live holy now. To preach the

doctrine of Christianity and leave its practices to every man's conscience is not sufficient. To be a Christian one must actually be Christlike in all things. To be Christlike is to be single-minded. Jesus was. His one great object in life was to do the will of his father. Paul, Christ's great follower, had that one object. He said, "this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Jesus was radical, and to be like him one must be radical. He was not unduly bound by custom and precedent, he practised progress. His teachings are the most radical teachings the world has ever known. He never did work merely on the surface. He went direct to the root of any matter. When he dealt with the woman at the well, he did not go way around to get at her trouble. He said, "Go, call thy husband." That was a direct thrust. That one statement laid open her whole sinful life. Many people do not like to be called radical, but to be Christlike is to be radical. If Christ were here on earth now, he would no doubt be termed a leader of radicals. Jesus was more greatly interested in character than in expediency. He knew that flattery could not add anything to any man and that criticism could never take anything away from him. He was not a conformer, but a transformer. He did not live on dreams of past glories, but of future possibilities. He was not a liberal in the sense that he took in everything and everybody, smoothed over sin and compromised principle in the interest of harmony. He was a radical in that he condemned all sham, uncovered hypocrisy, cleansed the temple by the use of whips, broke over all unscriptural Jewish traditions calling white white, and black black. He never gave any quarters to the wrong and never shrank from the suffering attendant upon doing the right. Relationships, friendships, positions, praise or censure never detoured him from the path of right. When you measure yourself by him can you feel you are a practical Christian and are you following in his footsteps?

#### Progress

Pentecost brought propagating power. "Ye shall be witnesses unto me." In other words, "ye shall be heralds of religious propaganda." Heart purity lays the foundation for Christian character. The fullness of the Holy Ghost gives power for Christian conquest. "But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

heaven should live holy now. To preach the The experience of entire sanctification goes

# Sanctified to Serve

Dr. G. B. Williamson

Entire sanctification is conditioned upon complete consecration. It includes perfect submission to all the will of God, known and unknown. This implies that, as the will of God is revealed, one is willing and ready to do it.

To declare one's self wholly the Lord's at an altar of prayer without following through in an active obedience to all God's will is but mockery. Consecration cannot be maintained as a condition of sanctification in passive indifference to God's purpose to redeem the world from sin. It must be expressed in active service that will lead others to Christ, the Saviour, for the glory of God.

We believe God wills that all men shall be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We believe Christ died on Calvary to give himself a ransom for all. How, then, can sanctified Christians be idle, indifferent, and disobedient to the will of God expressed in the Great Commission?

For that command of our risen Lord to be obeyed, a sanctified Christian must seek to save the people near by. He must be concerned about his neighbors in his own "Jerusalem." Therefore, he should be constantly engaged in visitation evangelism. He must reach out to "all Judaea." This will mean he is interested in home missions. He must bear the burden for "Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." He will be a foreign missionary at heart.

A light that shines far shines brightly near by. The Christian who is zealous to lead his neighbors to Christ will carry a burden for the whole world. He will work faithfully. He will pay liberally. He will then be able to pray effectually. In such a life of service he will demonstrate the sincerity of his commitment to God, that he might be sanctified wholly.

Sanctification is for service!—Herald of Holiness.

to the innermost nature with its cleansing power and to the outermost reaches of the earth with its God-created desire for spiritual conquest. This being so, it is evident that in the lives of many people that profess holiness, the experience of entire sanctification is long over due. They live in the realm of inquest rather than conquest; of intention rather than apprehension; of pleading mercy for weakness rather than witnessing of victories. They can quote history by the yard, but they do not

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The King's Highway