



The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

Bethany Library, March 53

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 31ST, 1953

No. 311

Guard the Holy Flame

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"The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar: it shall never go out," Leviticus 6:13.

It might have been supposed that the fire on the altar, being divine in its origin, would be divinely maintained. Such, however, was not the case. It had to be fed constantly with fresh fuel, and the ashes removed regularly by those appointed to that task. This is highly suggestive of the Christian life.

No one can evolve, develop or bring into being such a thing as a holy heart; it results from the refining cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. It is a supernatural flame emplaced within the soul that must be guarded and kept burning by the individual. "We are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end," Hebrews 3:14; "... if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou shalt be cut off," Romans 11:22; "Because thou art lukewarm ... will spue thee out of my mouth," Revelation 3:16.

The passion and impulsiveness of youth must not be allowed to extinguish this holy flame in the soul.

"The cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things" must not be permitted to smother the warmth and glow of the divine blaze.

Neither the bludgeoning of trouble and affliction, nor the scourging of pain must be allowed to quench the burning of love in the inner sanctuary of the soul.

It is the leaping flame on the altar of the soul that brings warmth and cheer to the whole life. It brings illumination to the mind, enabling the soul to understand God's will with greater clearness.

This divine energy within the soul imparts to the whole life a power and a drive never before possessed. It brings courage to the faint and makes for efficiency in the life of the awkward bungler.

Guard that inner glow, that divine flame!

Ask yourself the following questions:

Is the fire of loyalty to Christ burning so low that certain indulgences are condoned and practiced that formerly were avoided?

Do the chariot wheels of duty drag heavily so that much of what is known as Christian service is a drudgery?

Is there a spirit of criticism and self-pity present in the soul most of the waking hours?

If any of the above must be answered in the affirmative be alarmed for it is an unmistakable sign that the fire is going out.

Influence

The most insignificant people must not, through indolence and selfishness, undervalue their own influence. Most persons have a little circle, of which they are a sort of center. Its smallness may lessen their quantity of good, but does not diminish the duty of using that little influence wisely. Where is the human being so inconsiderable but that he may in some shape benefit others, either by calling their virtues into exercise, or by setting them an example of virtue himself?

But we are humble just in the wrong place. When the exhibition of our talents or splendid qualities is in question, we are not backward in the display. When a little self-denial is to be exercised; when a little good might be effected by our example, by our discreet management in company, by giving a better turn to conversation, then at once we grow wickedly modest: "Such an insignificant creature as I am can do no good. Had I a higher rank or brighter talents, then, indeed, my influence might be exerted to some purpose." Thus, under the mask of diffidence we justify our indolence, and let slip those lesser occasions of promoting religion, which, if we all improved, how much might the condition of society be raised!

The hackneyed interrogation, "What! Must we always be talking about religion?" must have the hackneyed answer—"Far from it." Talking about religion is not being religious. But we may bring the spirit of religion into company, and keep it in perpetual operation, when we do not professedly make it our subject. We may be constantly advancing its interest; we may, without effort or affectation, be giving an example of candor, of moderation, of humility, of forbearance. We may employ our influence by correcting falsehood, by checking levity, by discouraging calumny, by vindicating misrepresented merit, by countenancing everything which has a good tendency—in short, by throwing our whole weight, be it great or small, into a right scale.—Practical Piety.

Set aside some seasons of prolonged waiting upon God in contrition and humiliation. Postpone other things, cancel some engagements, withdraw from gatherings and seek God's approval with strong crying until the flame leaps again bringing gladness and a song to your own heart the while it points others the way to glorious liberty in Christ.

Wesleyan Methodist.

God Is Whispering

By W. E. Green*

The clamour of our modern age is a characteristic which has made many demands upon us. We have let the turmoil without and within rob us of the voice of God which is so often heard in silence. Elijah did not hear the voice of God in the whirlwind. God's voice did not arise from the earthquake, nor the fire. After these physical disturbances calmed down, there was silence. Elijah heard a still small voice—a whisper. God often uses physical disturbances to arrest our attention so that He can whisper to our souls.

We are held, as it were, in the hands of our modern society. There are ties which bind us to our earthly community. Yet, while we draw strength from this body, which nourishes us, our soul will often withdraw itself and seek for ultimate meaning, and answer the challenge of an other-worldly allegiance in solitude. We seek a place of solitude because it prepares the way for silence. Silence is a condition in which the soul is prepared for communion with God. It has been said that "God is the treasure concealed in solitude." He loves to meet men and women alone. We may read books, magazines, study congregations and friends, but God reveals Himself to the soul that is quiet. His challenge to us is, "be still, and know that I am God." A fuller revelation of God may be experienced by everyone who seeks for truth in solitude and silence, where the whisper of God is heard.

The whisper of God is constantly encircling the globe. Whether we are in our home, our office, a hotel, a grocery store, a bank, a shop or on the highway, this voice can be heard if we take time to be silent and listen. Our souls are too much disturbed most of the time to detect God's whisper. Must God use earthquakes, thunder, wars, poverty, or some other physical disturbance to arrest our attention and cause our souls to be quiet for a moment? Let us find a place of silence. Let us allow our souls to calm down. Let us cast off our personal passions, doubts, fears, thought of failure, our ambitions, and see what God has to whisper to our soul. Let us remember that it is when we cease from self, and are still, that God reveals Himself to us. It is true that it requires patience to be still, but after we have learned the art of being silent we may hear the whisper.

God created us with the five physical senses, sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. But there is another sense which is a characteristic

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