

# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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### Persecuted or Promoted?

By Ross E. Price

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good (Genesis 50:20).

Joseph has been despised, ill-treated, and finally sold into Egyptian servitude by his jealous brothers. There he became not only the ruler of the land, but also the saviour of his own brethren. In a spirit of true forgiveness, he called attention to the fact that God had turned adversity into blessing.

A pastor was voted out of his ministry to a certain congregation, only to find a larger parish and a wider field of service for the kingdom of God. Another minister dismissed from service at "Podunk Center" found his way into avenues of advancement and finally into the listings of Who's Who. A religious leader under the pressure of adversity became gracious and tolerant of his persecutors and finally received their praise and admiration.

The Christian may rightly pray for a right attitude in the day of adversity, and therewith commit the keeping of his soul unto God, who is a faithful and just Creator. In some of the Greek manuscripts, Romans 8:28 reads, "God worketh all things together for good, to them that are called according to his purpose." "As for you," said Joseph, "evil . . . but God . . . good." What a contrast there is in that parallelism! And since Joseph had committed his case to God, he could well afford to be magnanimous with his brethren.

Sometimes it does require adversity to bring out true greatness in a man. Joseph was big of soul and refused to hold a grudge in his heart. O Christian! the things that men think to do unto us cannot hurt us if God be on our side—or rather, if we be on God's side, and faithful to Him in spite of the untoward circumstances. God has a unique way of letting us get the better of our persecutors by giving us the privilege of returning good for evil, thus heaping coals of fire in brotherly kindness upon the heads of those who would do us harm. That beats "getting even" any day, for that is rising to honor and greatness of soul. Joseph was contemptuously treated and sold into Egypt, but there he was promoted to a throne. If his brothers "kicked" him anywhere, they "kicked" him upstairs to honor and promotion.

Our greatest problem is to find the right attitude and cultivate it. The evils that befall one are at best but relative if one's heart keeps right. Do you ask, "What should be the Christian's attitude?" The answer from the life of Joseph threefold:

### At The End of Prayer - What?

P. Wiseman

"When Solomon had made an end of praying the fire came down from heaven." 2 Chron. 7:1.

Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The New Testament way to say this would be something like this: "When he had finished praying, the Holy Ghost fell on the congregation."

There is the tragedy that arises from failure to pray: "He inquired not of the Lord," and we read about the consequences (I. Chron. 10:6-14). "Ye have not," says James, "because ye do not pray." On the other hand, there are many prayers that go unanswered because of other reasons. It is related of one church that when they took the stove-pipes down in the spring, they found the prayers that were offered during the winter. Of course, I would not believe that; but there have been prayers that have not risen as high as the stove-pipes. A newspaper tells about a great preacher who offered the greatest prayer ever offered to a congregation. One could believe this. But was it offered to God? That is the point. When the early church prayer for Peter's release from prison, it is recorded of them by the sacred historian that their "prayers were made without ceasing unto God for him" (Peter). God heard from his "dwelling place," and an angel was sent and Peter was released.

James says: "The heartfelt supplications of a righteous man exerts a mighty influence" (Weymouth). We read of a prayer that ended in a joyful sacrifice: "They went into their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the Lord had done" (I Kings 8:54-56). "When Elijah finished praying, the fire of the Lord came down." When you finish praying, what happens? Lord, help us.

### GRACE TO CONTINUE

The loyal Christian who puts his love to Christ before all earthly love possesses a joy, and peace unknown to those who desert their Lord in the hour of danger. Happy is the man who is loyal to the very end and can say with triumph as death draws near: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."—Arthur Hedley.

Be trustful in the day of adversity,  
Be faithful in the days of testing; and  
Be magnanimous in the day of triumph!

—Herald of Holiness

### "And Be Ye Kind"

The Evangelical Messenger.

Kindness is a Christian virtue. With spiritual regeneration there always comes into the heart and life of the individual the spirit of tenderness, meekness, and kindness. The Christ-spirit is ever gentle and considerate of the rights, wishes, and feelings of others.

Kindness is a mark, a characteristic of the children of God. Harshness in word or deed tends to discount one's profession of faith. Where gentleness and kindness take the place of a high, haughty spirit, and where tenderness supplants arrogance and cruelty, as results of a Christian profession, such changes constitute conclusive evidence that the faith professed is real and the conversion genuine.

Gentleness is not weakness. A firm, steady, reliable spirit of kindness is one of the marks of a strong moral and religious character. Harshness, anger, and cruelty are all marks of weakness. It is a mistaken notion of some that rigidity, frigidity, and severity of disposition are signs of superiority and strength. One who rules his own spirit as a Christian will never seek to "lord it over others." He takes delight in showing kindness, without respect of persons. Of course, there is no attempt at display or publicity. The Christian spirit of kindness does not care for publicity. It takes just as much, if not even more, pleasure in secret kindness as in those which are done openly. Meritorious deeds are not done simply to be seen of men.

Heart purity and a kindly spirit go together. Nothing is more potent to conquer prejudice or to overcome enmity, than a genuine and perpetual spirit of good-will and gentleness toward others. Deeds of love need no interpreter. Children readily understand it; the aged know it; the unlettered can read it; and even the savage soon comprehends it, and then reciprocates. Christian kindness is never exclusive. Its field is the world. It makes no distinctions. It recognizes the fact that all the world is *akin*, and hence the world's claim is as broad as mankind itself.

It should be remembered that kindness is neither colorless nor blind. It exercises discernment and knows how to combine firmness with gentleness. Even as strength and beauty find a common ground, so gentleness and firmness are in perfect agreement and make a happy combination. Severity may proceed from weakness, and is usually a sign of it, while kindness points to a tower of strength.