

Unconscious Influence

By Commissioner Brengle

Some people often sing: "Oh, to be nothing, nothing," but in reality, to be something, to be useful, is one of the first and strongest desires that springs up in the heart of a truly saved person. And one of the blessed things about a holy life is its supernatural, constant, and unconscious influence for good. A holy person does not have to resolve and struggle to be a blessing. Without conscious effort, his life and talk and looks inspire the faint-hearted, encourage the timid, instruct the ignorant, feed the hungry, and rebuke the proud, and selfish, and wayward. He blesses people in all sorts of ways, without at the time knowing it, and is often surprised to learn how the Lord has been using him.

Luke says that "the whole multitude sought to touch Jesus; for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all." And, just so, virtue goes out from holy people as perfume floats out from a rose, or warmth from a fire, or light from a flame.

A sanctified minister said to a friend who was deserting his post, "I feel that woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Some weeks later another minister said to him, "I overheard you that day when you said, 'Woe is me if I preach not the gospel,' and it stirred my soul, and made me feel that way too." Those words had been said quietly, but God was in them, and they were with power. This fits Solomon's saying, "The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools." (Eccl. 9:17).

A number of years ago a sanctified man and his wife were followed home from their meetings several nights by a nurse from the hospital near by. She could not get away from her duties long enough to attend the meetings, but she said to herself, "I will walk home behind them, and maybe I shall get something for my soul."

And she did. All unconscious that a hungry heart was feeding upon their words, these people talked out of their clean hearts about Jesus, and His love, and His Word, and His uttermost salvation; and as a result the nurse was so filled with desire to glorify God and save souls that she left her work for people's bodies, became a missionary, and is now in the Far East. This strange story came back to the man and his wife from Korea, after many days, to surprise and gladden them, and fill them with wonder at the unconscious power of holy conversation.

The very silence of a holy man is with power. I have known such silence to still the voice of slander and foolishness, and hush the laugh of silliness and folly. A minister with a clean heart aflame with love met a girl, who had offered herself for the slum work. She was giggling and chattering in a way that convinced him that instead of being filled with the Holy Spirit she was empty. He wanted to speak to her about her soul, but hardly knew how to begin, so he was silent and prayed in his heart for her. Afterwards she said, "I looked at his face, and said to myself, 'There is a holy man, a man dead to sin. But I am alive yet'". . . And that sight of his face led her to seek and find the blessing, and now for years she has been a most useful and devoted worker. The very presence of such a man is a re-

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THE GRACE OF CONTINUANCE

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course, is many-sided, but there are two aspects of truth that we can never discover unless we continue to walk in obedience to God's word.

We need to know the truth about ourselves, and this can only be discovered as we walk in fellowship and obedience with Christ.

How little we really know of our God in an experimental way! We seem to know far more about Him intellectually. What a field for exploration! But our God only reveals His secrets to those who continue in His word. Spiritual knowledge is a by-product of our continuance.

3. It is the Pathway to Freedom:

"If ye continue . . . the truth shall make you free."

The paradoxical thing about spiritual freedom is that it only comes through obedience to some law—"Continue in my word and you shall be free."

In Psalm 119:44-45, the Psalmist says: "So shall I keep thy law continually . . . and I will walk at liberty."

Paul, writing to the Romans, declares—"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has made me free from the law of sin and death." Subjection to one law brings freedom from the other. And again, in writing to the Corinthians: "Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is (or where the Spirit is Lord), there is liberty."

It seems abundantly clear that if we would know freedom from sin and continuous victory, and all the other benefits of Christian freedom, then we must continue in His word.

The words of Madame Guyon, as she sings from her prison cell are perfectly true: "My freedom is Thy grand control."

It is a great thing to commence your spiritual pilgrimage, but it is a more wonderful thing still to continue: to be like Abraham, of whom it was said: "Abraham journeyed, STILL GOING ON."

Are you still going on? Remember, the grace of commencement can only become the grace of conclusion by the grace of continuance.—Emmanuel.

A MODERN HOLINESS REVIVAL

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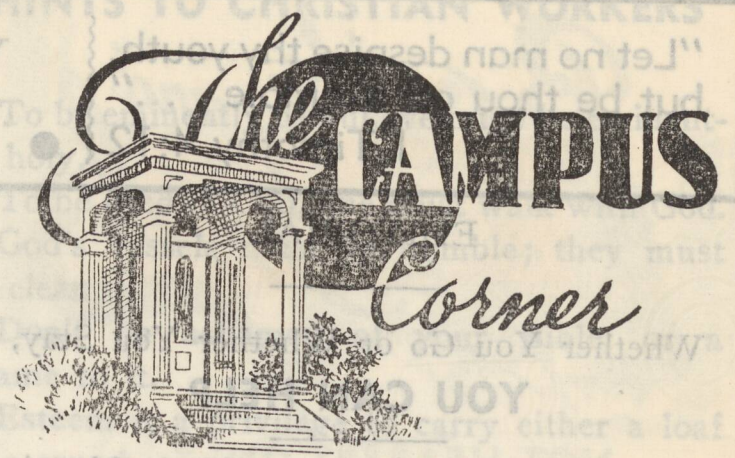
of Calvinism it seemed improbable that a holiness revival would commence there.

Through it, God has demonstrated that we can have revival anywhere, even in this twentieth century, if we will pay the price.

The Lewis revival, according to Duncan Campbell, is the result of constant fasting and praying. It began through the devoted praying of, among others, two old sisters, both over eighty years of age.

A young lad of seventeen years of age, upon whom has fallen a baptism of the spirit of intercession, is given much of the credit by the revivalist. He maintains that the revival was already begun when he got there, and has continued apart from anything he has done.

Prayer, he claims, is the explanation. How this should challenge and encourage all of us to a more passionate and intensified ministry of prayer for revival!—Herald of Holiness.



BETHANY SUNDAY

Sunday, February 7th, has been designated to spearhead the Day's Pay Drive for Bethany. Many of our good people contributed during the school tour, but many more are waiting for this special time to send in their offering, which has become a yearly feature of our denominational enterprise. The need is urgent, as we must make full payment on a note of \$1500.00 still due on the heating plant. By the help of God and our loyal people, we believe that the need will be met. Those who have signed the envelopes will receive a circular letter as a friendly reminder of your pledge. We urge all our pastors to stress this important need, and to encourage their people to support this project.

Please address all checks and money orders to Bethany Bible College, not to individuals, as this complicates our financial system. We remind you that these gifts are not credited to your church budget, but are given to meet needs over and above the regular current expenses of the school.

A HEARTY THANK YOU

In a recent issue of our paper we asked for assistance on church budget payments to meet bills overdue. The response to this appeal was very gratifying, and as a result we were able to pay our faculty and make substantial payments on all our accounts. May God bless you for helping us to meet this pressing need. The budget is our life line, keep it coming.

MY MONEY CREED

1. I believe my money is mine only in trust. It belongs to God just as I do.

2. I believe God is counting upon this money for His work. It is to build His churches and preach His Gospel, train His workers and send them out, teach and heal and save His children, and help bring in a new kingdom of righteousness and peace.

3. I believe that to spend my income rightly is one of my first tasks as a Christian. Until I settle this, my prayers and confessions will be like saying, "Lord, Lord" and not doing the will of my Father.

4. I believe I should set aside a definite portion of my income for the church and the service of others. I do this on acknowledgment of God's sovereignty over all my material possessions. I do this to guard against my own selfishness. I do this because it is business-like. Giving by impulse and without system does not accord with the importance of this work.

5. I believe I should invest this money for God as carefully as in my temporal business, and keep strict account of this fund. I should study the church and its work that I may give wisely. I should give systematically. I should pray with my giving.—Selected.