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NOVA SCOTIA
YARMOUTH

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

VOL. XXXVIII

MONCTON, N. B., MARCH 15TH, 1954

No. 338

Revival Tarries Because

Rev. Leonard Ravenhill

We have left our first love. Bible Conferences today major on the book of Ephesians. Despite our sin and carnality we are told we are seated with Him. Alas! What a lie! We are in Ephesians all right, but as the Ephesians in the Revelation—we have left our first love.

Revival tarries because we lack urgency and desperation in prayer. A famed evangelist entered a Conference recently and said, "I have come with a great burden for prayer in this Conference. Will all who will share this burden with me raise their hands. No hypocrites!" There was a good response. Later in the week a half-night of prayer was called and the evangelist was conspicuous because of his absence. No hypocrite! Has integrity passed altogether away? Are all superficial?

The biggest single factor contributing to a delayed Holy Ghost Revival is the lack of soul-travail in pulpit and pew! We are not resisting unto blood. We do not even get sweat on our souls as Luther put it. Our prayers are cold, no fervent.

Over the doors of our modern churches can be written, "We Wrestle Not." We display our gifts. We air our views. We preach a sermon or write a book to correct a brother in doctrine. But who among us is storming the ramparts of hell?

Who among us, I say, are denying ourselves food, sleep, friends, while we wrestle with hell's demon forces and liberate souls, depopulate hell and, as a result of our travail, leave a stream of blood-washed souls?

The only power on earth that God yields to—or Hell either, for that matter—is the power of prevailing prayer! Brethren! Let us give ourselves continually to prayer!—The Flame.

GIVEN UP TO CHRIST

He who lives without prayer, he who lives with little prayer, he who seldom reads the Word, he who seldom looks up to Heaven for a fresh influence from on high — he will be the man whose heart will become dry and barren. But he who calls in secret on his God, who spends much time in holy retirement, who delights to meditate on the words of the Most High, whose soul is given up to Christ—such a man must have an overflowing heart, and, as his heart is, such will he be.

Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His Word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak; forgetting in nothing, His blessing to seek.—Selected.

The Gentleness of Jesus

Dr. Peter Wiseman

"He answered him nothing." This statement illustrates the gentleness of Jesus. Of course, some will say that Jesus drove the money-changers out of the Temple, and that on another occasion He looked on the people, being angry because of the hardness of their hearts. Jesus' being firm and having righteous anger does not prove in the least that He was not always gentle. In all His dealing with situations He showed complete control.

Jesus was gentle with the sinful and the erring. When the poor, unfortunate woman was brought before Him by that religious group, He said to them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." They then went out from His presence, one by one. Being left alone with the woman, He said, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?" She said, "No man, Lord." And the Lord replied, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Jesus, the embodiment of the gentleness of God the Father, revealed this wonderful grace of disposition in His earthly life. Paul might have thought of this when he said, "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God as a sweet-smelling savour" (Eph. 5:1-2).

Be imitators of the gentle God as revealed in Christ! What need there is of this heavenly disposition to be revealed in Christian deportment these days! Lord Jesus, make us gentle!

VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION

Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting, letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

Ordinary Christians imagine that all not positively forbidden and sinful is lawful, and seek to retain as much as possible of this world, its prosperity, its literature, its enjoyments, but the truly consecrated soul, like the soldier, carries only what he needs for the battle. Laying aside EVERY WEIGHT as well as the BESETTING SIN, afraid of entangling himself with the affairs of life, he seeks to lead a Nazarite life, one specially set apart for the Lord and His service. Without such voluntary separation, even from what is lawful, no one will attain power in prayer; "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."—Andrew Murray.

Smug Complacency

Dr. D. I. Vanderpool

The impotent man waited near the Pool of Bethesda, whose waters after being troubled by an angel brought healing to the first one stepping in. For thirty-eight years he had looked and longed for deliverance. Doubtless he had come many miles to reach the pool. He saw the remedy and felt that a new day had come. He patiently waited his turn and dragged himself to the pool, only to have another step in ahead of him. Again and again he came wearily to the pool; each time someone pushed in before him. This day he sat broken and discouraged, a friendless man. He was a victim of the smug complacency of those who sat with folded hands watching him in his fruitless struggle for release. While he thus waited Jesus entered Jerusalem and came immediately, not to the Temple or to the home of a friend to refresh himself, but to the Pool of Bethesda, where the blind, halt, and withered were waiting for the moving of the water.

The bowed head and bent shoulders together with the look of utter despair which was upon the man's face drew the Saviour to him. Knowing that the man had been afflicted for a long time, Jesus asked him the pointed question, "Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:6) and received the tragic answer, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me" (John 5:7). Jesus said nothing to the religious, ease-loving onlookers, but immediately spoke the word that brought healing to the impotent man.

The indifference and inertia of the bystanders of that day broke the heart of the Saviour. Today, two thousand years later, He is again grieved and disappointed by the ease-loving, comfort-seeking, entertainment-hungry spirit that bids for a place in the church. Away with this smug complacency! "The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Rom. 13:12). Let no man who lives or works near you ever be able truthfully to say, "I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." Christ depends on us. We must not disappoint Him!—Herald of Holiness.

"HOLINESS TO THE LORD"

Let us see—and with the conviction that we cannot do without it—that all selfishness be extirpated, pride banished, unbelief driven from the mind, every idol dethroned, and everything hostile to holiness and opposed to the Divine will crucified; that "holiness to the Lord" may be engraven on the heart, and evermore characterise our whole conduct.—David Livingstone.