

The King's Highway

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Encouragement

By Rev. S. H. Baxter, M.A.

"But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him."
—(Deut. 1. 38).

Is the act of encouragement as common as it ought to be? Are we more prone to discourage than to encourage? There are some people who would throw a wet blanket over any project. They are the pessimists who always look on the dark side of things, and are quite sure beforehand that the proposed venture could not possibly succeed. If by any chance it should not, they respond with the familiar: "I told you so." There are others—God bless them—who will urge you on with a word of cheer. Even though they may be a little doubtful of the success of the course you have in mind, but they will not tell you so. Rather will they say: "Go ahead. Nothing beats a trial. 'Nothing venture nothing win.' You can only do your best." If you succeed they would be the first to congratulate you, and if you should fail, they say: "Well, you at least made the attempt!" They are the encouragers.

This was what Moses was called upon by God to do in the case of Joshua. Moses had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. What a thankless task he had! He had a discontented company to lead, and it was little wonder that one day he lost his temper, and did what he was not commanded to do. That momentary lapse was against the revealed will of God, and resulted in his exclusion from the promised land. The task of leading the people into Canaan fell to Joshua, his second-in-command. God says to Moses: "Joshua will take them in, therefore encourage him." This Moses certainly did. If he had any feelings of disappointment at not being allowed to do the work himself, there is not the slightest trace of them in Scripture. Read these pre-Jordan narratives, and you will find that Moses gave every possible assistance to Joshua, every piece of wise advice that he could think of. The subsequent successful conquest of Caanan was in no small measure due to the instructions that Moses gave to Joshua and which Joshua so faithfully carried out. Moses truly did what God asked him to do. He encouraged Joshua.

Is the ministry of encouragement then one we are failing to fulfil? Do we ever tell the preacher after a service that his message was a help to us? We are so inclined to be critical of our ministers, and they may have the impression that we do not like their preaching. What an encouragement then it would be to hear of help and blessing given! We are inclined to think that praise might make men

conceited. Not so with the truly surrendered Christian. It should humble him and send him to his knees in gratitude to God for using one so unworthy.

Even great men can be helped by a little praise. When Dr. Dale went to Carr's Lane Church, in Birmingham, where he exercised such a mighty ministry, he was told that the congregation would never stand doctrinal preaching. He was reported to have replied: "They will have to." They did. The place was crowded. His book on the Atonement is a standard work to-day. Like all great men he had his times of despondency.

Dr. Sangster tells us of an occasion when he felt that all his work was in vain. That very day there passed him in the street a poor woman, neatly dressed and laden with parcels. She stopped him and said: "God bless you Dr. Sangster." Her face was unknown to the great preacher, so he asked her her name. "Never mind my name," she answered, "but if you could only know how you have made me feel hundreds of times, and what a happy home you have given me! God bless you." She passed on, but this is how Dr. Sangster records the effect it had upon him: "The mist broke, the sunlight came, I breathed the fresh air of the mountains of God."

I like to think that even the Master Himself was helped and encouraged as He went His way from the manger to the Cross. The presence of the twelve disciples was surely an encouragement to Him. There were many times when it was needed. There came a day when we read of some, for whom He possibly had great hopes, who went back and walked no more with Him. To the inner circle of twelve He turned and said: "Will you also go away?" "Lord," said Peter, "to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." Was that not an encouragement?

On the last journey to Jerusalem to lay down His life for our redemption he stopped at the house of Simon, the leper, where one gracious act meant much to Him, as the precious alabaster box of spikenard was broken at His feet. The fragrance of that act counteracted the hatred of the Pharisees. May we not believe that it strengthened Him to bear our sins in His own body on the tree. Let us seek to exercise a like ministry, and as Mary encouraged our Lord, or as Moses encouraged Joshua, let us be encouragers of others. What a help we could be to them! —Bright Words.

"If we knew our Bible as well, and used it as confidently and frequently as we know and use the multiplication table, the problems of life would appear more simple, and would be more easily solved."

Sanctification

(Spirit Fullness)

By Claude A. Ries

The greatest fact in human life is God. The greatest fact in history from creation to the time of John the Baptist was the promise of the Messiah, God to be clothed in human flesh. The greatest fact in history from John the Baptist until Pentecost was the actual incarnation of God in human form living among men, very God and very man. The greatest fact since Pentecost and on till the end of time, is the indwelling and infilling of God, the Holy Spirit, in the hearts of men.

When Jesus became the God-man He "emptied himself" of His heavenly prerogatives and became subject to the Father's will and dependent upon the Holy Spirit. Jesus as the Son of Man was conceived of the Spirit, baptized of the Spirit, led of the Spirit, sustained by the Spirit, went forth in the power of the Spirit, preached in the Spirit, found His joy in the Spirit, endured the cross and offered up Himself as a ransom through the eternal Spirit, was raised from the dead by the Spirit and then gave commandment to His disciples that they should not depart from Jerusalem till they were baptized and filled with the same Spirit that enabled Him as the Son of Man to do the Father's will.

"He is with you," said Jesus, "but he shall be in you." He, the Holy Spirit, was with them because He was ever in Jesus as the Son of Man but He, the Spirit, shall be in you as He has been in Me. Hence "it is expedient that I go away . . . if I depart I will send Him unto you."

Looking at the matter of Christian experience from the Holy Spirit standpoint there the two acid tests, scripturally. First, "Now if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) he is none of His." Second, "Be filled with the Spirit," or in other words, "Be born of the Spirit" and "Be filled with the Spirit."

It is the Holy Spirit within the life of a man that regenerates him and empowers him to live a separated life and stop the practice of the sin business as a born-again child of God. Holiness is thus begun as he separates from sin and experiences "the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." Holiness becomes entire as he yields that new life back to God, presenting it now as a living sacrifice. In the act of total abandonment to God, the regenerated person becomes God-cleansed and God-filled. He thus fulfils God's second imperative "Be filled with the Spirit."

"Be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot
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