

The King's Highway

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How Safe is Power?

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"And Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands . . . He riseth from supper, and laid aside His garments . . . and began to wash the disciples' feet." John 13:3-5).

In the world today our question poses quite a problem. The H-Bomb has given it considerable force. The Western democracies feel that the world is quite safe so long as power is controlled by them, but power in the hands of the Communists—well, that isn't just quite the same thing. I question if any country on the earth at the present time is feeling too easy regarding ownership of the H-Bomb.

Turn to our text now and read it again. Then couple with this that other scripture: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth," and we have One claiming a monopoly on power. One single Person possessing power that would make the H-Bomb seem a mere piffle. And yet, whoever worried over this fact? On the one hand, here is power holding the entire race in a grip of frenzy, on the other hand, we have Infinite power resident in One, the knowledge of which quiets every soul with a holy confidence. In this contrast may be found the answer to our question, How safe is power? Power is only safe when controlled by character. Power in the hands of Christ moved Him to the humble task of washing the disciples' feet. Power controlled by character means service for others; power controlled by carnality means destruction.

Thus far we have been speaking of power in the upper brackets of life. But is there not a possible application of this same principle in the experience of the common man? Christ seemed to think so. We hear Him saying, "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

Power in some respects belongs to us. Power, that operates in very practical ways. For instance, there is the power of the spoken word. James says, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity . . . and it is set on fire of hell." The reputation of many good men have gone down from attacks from this arsenal. David prayed, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." David would put character into his conversation until God could sanction every word that he uttered.

Then there is the power of the pulpit that belongs to not a few. Paul knew the pulpit to be a place of tremendous influence. It was Paul who said, "So we preach, and so ye be-

lieved. Here is a mighty principle accompanying every man's ministry. A wrong use of power here is tragic. For a minister's works to be "burned up" would seem the height of failure. To handle the Word of God deceitfully is a serious crime, and yet on the other hand we must avoid using the pulpit as a protection while we brow-beat and humiliate people as we would not think of doing were we talking with them privately. Character is vital here.

Again, there is the power of franchise. And what a power is this! Presidents and premiers and preachers tremble before this one. Here is a power that exercised without character sent Christ to Calvary and set Barabbas free. While it has not often dealt with as weighty issues it has many times since acted with as little character to its credit in that momentous hour. Through the long years of church history God's work and God's workmen have suffered irreparable loss because men have allowed their prejudices to over-balance their honor in the exercise of this power.

I feel that I can say these things at this time of my ministry without any personal hang-overs. No man has been treated kindlier in these matters than has the writer of this article. Personal complaints on my part would be very childish. Neither do I believe that a negative vote is never justifiable. I am saying, however, that here is a power placed in the hands of many which necessitates a goodly amount of character and conscientiousness in its proper exercise.

How safe, then, is Power? Only as safe as is the measure of character we bring to the use of it.

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TIME IS PRECIOUS

Time is so precious that it is dealt out to us in the smallest possible fractions—a tiny moment at a time. We cannot live again a moment that has just passed, nor can we live in the moment that is just to come. Just while the pendulum is swinging through the present instant—this is the only time to do our thinking, our working. Why should we not make this a perfect moment?

ALL FOR GOD!

Holiness means that in all this round of life we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. So thinking and purposing and doing that everywhere the life of God within us shall have freedom and opportunity for growth; much more that it shall be kept from the blight of the world's east wind and frost, and from being crushed in the crowd of cares.

—Mark Guy Pearse.

Have You Prayed?

By Roy Dettwiler

How much have you prayed today? Or have you prayed at all? By no means everything we call prayer these days really is prayer. And the biggest single lack in all the church today is the lack of prayer.

If it were possible to single out the most spiritual half of our church members and compute the average time per member per day spent in real prayer, how large do you think it would be? Surprisingly small, I have no doubt! And it will be much better not to figure at all on the other half!

A discouragingly small percentage of our members are in prayer meeting, week after week. Less will be found in any special prayer meeting you may call. Even less will answer the call to fasting and prayer. Very, very few will get up in the night to form a twenty-four hour chain of prayer.

Almost no one, it seems, is led into sacrificial, intercessory, agonizing prayer these days. Or perhaps we should say no one is willing to be led into such prayer—for I am certain that the Lord would lead some of us if we were willing.

When it comes to our own personal prayer life, no one can tell how much we pray; but almost anyone can tell if we don't pray—for the prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian, if he's a Christian at all!

Prayer is the communion of the soul with its God; the only real contact we have with Him—and how little some of us have! We have not really prayed until we can sense the presence of God. We may spend hours on our knees and yet have prayed very little, because a great deal of our time is spent in getting ourselves into an attitude of prayer, in gathering our thoughts, and in shutting out the world.

God is accessible. If God seems far away, it is because we are far away from God (mentally, at least). If it seems hard to pray, the trouble is not with God, it is in ourselves. The most potent weapon the devil can use against you in your prayer life is you.

The best time to pray is in the early morning, before the rest of the household is stirring, and before the noise of neighborhood activity can distract you. You will be rested then, too. But even then, you may have trouble with yourself. It will not be easy to make yourself get out of bed. A little more sleep would be so wonderful!

Then, when you actually come to pray, there may be a thousand and one thoughts going through your mind, which you will have

(Cont'd on Page 4, Col. 3)