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Holy Ghost Conviction

By Mrs. Fannie Erb

We hear and read a great deal today, of indifference, lethargy, deadness and a lack of life and fire; about evangelism; about needing a revival, and how to bring it about. We are exhorted, admonished, and reminded that only real revival will save our nation; that America is on the rocks—and not only our wonderful civilization, but the Church is in a dreadful, lukewarm, half-asleep condition, and that the only thing that will revive and restore her and through her the nation, is a red-hot revival.

We are instructed as to laws, rules and plans which are supposed to promote revival; we are urged to pray and fast; to advertise, do personal work; be faithful in attendance, etc., but all of this is putting the cart before the horse. It is like having an auto all ready to start, everything in perfect order, but no gasoline! Brethren, the trouble is, we are doing all that man can do, but leaving God out. It is true we pray a lot, but are we not asking God to bless our efforts instead of asking Him to come in His own way? Are we willing to step aside and let God have full control? Can He have full sway, even though it may look as if everything is going to pieces and God is turning everything upside down?

Some sixty years ago, Dr. Carradine, then pastor of a big Methodist church in St. Louis, with some 500 members, engaged Dr. Godbey to conduct a meeting for him; and Dr. Godbey never set any dates! He remained with a meeting (if he was allowed to do so) until God came, and until God was through. As usual, he took his stand on Mt. Sinai, thundered out the law, made hell very real and certain for those who failed to obey God, for two weeks, before a single altar call. By then, the congregation was dwindling, until Dr. Carradine began to be alarmed, and in his closet said, "Lord, didn't You tell me to get Dr. Godbey?" and the Lord answered, "Just leave him to Me. I will take care of him." So Dr. Carradine awaited results. One evening when there were only about 90 people left, he made the altar call. Without any coaxing or prolonged altar call, almost the entire congregation moved forward, and such repenting and confessions of backsliding, until one after another rose with a shine on his face, restored and reclaimed. From that time on, the revival rolled on with ever increasing momentum, until hundreds were converted and sanctified.

What was the secret? Old-time, Holy Ghost conviction! There can be no real lasting work without it; but the Holy Ghost will never be confined to human dates, regulations, forms, rituals and controls. He will not even come

unless invited by strong crying and tears, earnest, heartfelt longing and desire; for if He did come easily, and uninvited, and just fit in with human programs, man would claim all the glory. But when He is wanted above all else; when He is given the place of power and honor; when He has full right-of-way, then He will come as no human power could, with a power, freshness and force, in such a variety of ways that all will see the hand of God, and He will get all the glory.

When He comes, He will begin with the church. Deep, pungent conviction will seize the holiness professor, the hypocrite, the compromiser, the backslider, the lukewarm and dead church member. There will be bitter repentance, open confession, the uncovering of sin, hypocrisy, and unfaithfulness. Love will spring up like a fountain overflowing its walls; unkind words will melt and disappear, like a fog before the sun. Then there will be a dying out to carnality, a yielding to God, and a complete consecration such as only the Spirit-led soul can make, and a breaking through to glorious victory and entire sanctification as only the baptism with the Holy Ghost can bring about.

Then the revival will be on! Nothing can stop it now, if man keeps his place and allows the Holy Ghost to have full sway. The devil of course will hatch up some scheme to thwart the work of God, but if the people of God will not relax in prayer and looking unto God, He will take care of everything. Sinners will be attracted to the fire. Mighty conviction will take hold of the hardest of them and they will feel they are shaken over the pit of hell. Sin will be revealed to them by the Holy Spirit as being exceedingly sinful, and they will see themselves lost and without God in the world. Some folk become so wrought upon they think they are very ill, and go to a doctor for a remedy, and find that the only remedy is the precious blood of Jesus—and how they rejoice when it is applied!

Of course, it is necessary to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and love. Any rivalry, disobedience, jealousy, or bitterness will surely grieve the Spirit, even though it might not be outwardly manifested. Evan Roberts, in the Welsh revival, would sense immediately any departure from the unity and love in the Spirit, and with uplifted hand would say, "Someone has grieved the Spirit," and all would fall on their knees and pray until the Spirit returned in all of His quickening power.

Outside opposition will have no effect on the revival, but only add more fuel to the fire, if the saints keep in perfect harmony and love within themselves. We have heard preachers say they would rather have some wildfire than

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A Gentle Reserve

By Oliver G. Wilson

"Study to be Quiet"

I Thessalonians 4:11

Satan is very busy to disquiet us, and in the natural heart there is much to dispose us to restlessness. It is a most desirable thing to have a calm and quiet disposition. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Much is said about strength but the portion "in quietness and confidence" is very often overlooked.

This is a restless age. There is much feverish activity, much hustle and running here and there. If we do not go everywhere and see everything we are fearful lest we be thought crude and unsophisticated.

Unless we keep up a "machinegun fire" of chatter, though it is often useless and silly conversation, we are fearful lest we be thought dumb or slow-witted.

There are those who think that they have had a dull unspiritual worship service unless there has been much noise, and considerable manifestation of the human.

In this Scripture quotation, "Study to be quiet," is a wealth of inexhaustible treasures. To explore the depth of this statement will yield rich storehouses of grace.

The Apostle counsels sedateness and calmness, a full control of all the drives and urges of the flesh, that all may be done to the glory of God.

The nearer the heart of God the soul dwells, the more it shrinks from worldly bustle, and the more distasteful becomes the clamor for worldly applause.

Study to be quiet when slanderous tongues are wagging. Empty yourself of all suspicion, surmising, discontent and malice.

Study to be quiet when pressed sore in temptation's supreme hour. Your words will be twisted into unnatural meanings and your very motives called in question. However, the most violent critic will frequently soften and be subdued in the presence of calm self-control.

Study to be quiet when success crowns your efforts. Let others praise you while you hold your tongue and give God the glory.

Study to be quiet when others are speaking. Learn to listen well—listen with animation and enthusiasm. You will show complete mastery of self and very often you will gain valuable information.

This is a life-time, life-long lesson. It is never fully mastered. Day by day it is a goal to strive for, a prize to be grasped.

In the mastery of this lesson it will require the grace of God and the fully sanctified purpose of the individual. Give yourself wholly to it and thus adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. —Wesleyan Methodist