

# The King's Highway

Rev. H. C. Mullen, June 66

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### Preparation For Revival

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Possibly our title presupposes too much. We are taking for granted that men can do something in preparation for revival.

There are those who leave revival entirely in the realm of God's sovereignty. Revival, in their thinking, has no relation to human preparation. Even among our people there is such thinking. "We shall have a revival when God takes the notion" seems to be their attitude. "It isn't time yet," they say. Thus they resign themselves—or relieve themselves.

As far as I can see, such thinking is not reasonable nor scriptural.

God does not work according to whims and fancies.

True, we may not always understand God's workings, but he does work in accordance with principles, laws, and conditions. Otherwise prayer and faith, for example, would be futile and foolish. They would make no difference with God. Obedience also would avail us nothing.

No less an authority than Duncan Campbell has said: "God is the God of revival. He is sovereign in the affairs of men. But we must not believe in any conception of God's sovereignty that nullifies man's responsibility. We are the human agents through whom revival is possible. To say, as many do, 'We can do nothing,' may be a very accommodating doctrine to 'them that are at ease in Zion,' but it will not stand the light of divine revelation."

In the Scriptures often the promises and the conditions go together, conditions involving human responsibility. Frequently the meaning of Scripture, if not the words, is "if . . . then." Consider Hosea 10:12, Malachi 3:10. Consider further 2 Chronicles 7:14 . . . "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

We can do something about revival; and if we can, we should. Yea, God have mercy upon us if we don't. With tears I admonish you: Humble yourself under the mighty Hand of God. Seek revival for your soul. Ask God to take away your barrenness and deadness, your wickedness and unrighteousness.

The Scripture quoted provides a formula for revival.

God requires of us first of all a humbling of ourselves; a "going down" before Him; an openness an honesty, a lowliness of heart and mind. Such an attitude is essential in order for God to show us anything about ourselves. The reason that you and I may think "we are all right" is that we have not humbled ourselves. Often we can not see pride in ourselves, stubbornness, covetousness, jealousy, hatred, coldness. Thanks be unto God, however, if we humble ourselves, He the Spirit of Truth and Holiness can show us.

The Scriptures reveal that we may think that we are

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### Revival In Our Time

In "Evangelical Christian"

"Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause Thine anger towards us to cease . . . wilt Thou not revive us again?" (Psa. 85:4-6).

"O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years . . . in wrath remember mercy." (Hab. 3:2).

There are many poignant cries from the people of God throughout the Old Testament when they had departed far from Him, that God in His mercy might think again upon His chosen and in wrath remember mercy. These things were written for our guidance, for our comfort, our admonition, our instruction and our hope, upon whom it seems that the ends of the ages have come. Perhaps it should be pointed out that revival can never come except amongst the members of the body of Christ. It is the Church of the living God, bought by His own precious blood, that has grown cold and indifferent that requires to be brought back to its first love and quickened and renewed by the power of the Divine Spirit.

There is no disguising the fact that a spiritual chill, a coldness as of death, has crept over the saints of God in the last 40 years.

The world has made desperate inroads into the citadel of Zion and that town of Mansoul, that can not be taken from without, has come near to being destroyed by the destructive assaults of the enemy within. In many places today the Church is so conformed to the world that there is little difference to be seen between it and the world. As a matter of fact, conformity to the world is almost the rule, not the exception today. The aim of so many Christians seem to be not how closely can I follow my rejected Master or how like Him I can be, but how closely can I follow the world and conform to its ways and yet get to heaven at the end. The supreme tragedy of the Christian Church is the stultified Christians who have never gone beyond the first principles of the doctrine of Christ or have forsaken the highway of spiritual truth for the low level of worldly pleasure.

If the Church needs reviving the world needs evangelizing, and in exactly that order. A prominent Canadian preacher tells us that what is needed today is not a preaching of the Moody type of Gospel, but a Gospel suited to the needs of the men and women of the 20th century. And while men talk such nonsense Billy Graham preaches to audiences up to 75,000 the old Gospel of redeeming Grace that Moody so effectively proclaimed, and thousands are swept into the kingdom. The needs of men and women in this 20th century are not one whit different from those of the 19th century, or the first century for that matter. Does modern man not need to be "born again," has sin ceased to separate man from God, and has so-called progress and scientific invention shut the doors of hell and opened the gates of heaven to all mankind? Unless we can say yes to these questions it is no 20th century

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