

# The King's Highway

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### What is the Secret?

By Oswald J. Smith, D.D.  
In "Free Methodist"

Those who have been specially anointed of the Holy Ghost and whose work reads like a page out of the Acts of the Apostles did not just happen to stumble on the blessing. They met God. And when we, too, after having counted the cost, are willing to pay the price, God will grant us the same endowment of power from on high.

Now, of course, I am taking it for granted that we are right with God. I mean, that there is no known sin in our lives. To seek the anointing of the Spirit before all sin has been confessed and put out of our lives is simply to pound our fists against a stone wall. God will neither hear nor answer. About this I need say no more. It is self-evident.

And first of all I am persuaded that without an intense desire and thirst there will be no real blessing. "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground" (Isa. 44:3). There must be a genuine thirst. The ground must realize that it is parched and dry. So long as we are satisfied with our present condition, God will not give us anything more. But "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). "Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

So long as I feel that I can somehow or other get on without these special anointings of the Holy Spirit, just so long will God allow me to continue as I am; but as soon as I give up in despair and refuse to be denied, just so soon will He satisfy the hunger and thirst of my heart. Self-sufficiency is the great obstacle. Men have been known to shut themselves in their rooms and refuse to come out or to eat until God met them, so intense has been the desire.

Well, now, am I hungry? Do I want the power of the Spirit more than anything else in the world? Am I earnest about it? Is there a real thirst? Would I be willing to part with all I possess if only I might be a Spirit-anointed worker? How great is my hunger? How strong my desire?

Now the second prerequisite is earnest prayer. So far as I have read the biographies of God's anointed men, they have come from their knees with the power of God resting upon them and the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in their souls. I am perfectly confident that the man who does not spend hours alone with God will never know the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The world must be left outside until God alone fills the vision. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication; and suddenly they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 1:14; 2:4). "And when they had prayed, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 4:31). "Peter and John prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17). Tarry in prayer—earnest, expectant, persevering, united. As someone has well said:

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### Barrenness and Fruitfulness

By the late Rev. H. S. Dow

In nature's growth life follows death. The potential fruitfulness of the seed is dependent on the burial and death of the planting process. A like principle operates in the spiritual realm. A short time before his crucifixion Jesus said to His followers: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit". John 12:24. In this statement He seeks to impress His disciples with the fact that He must die in order to accomplish His purpose in making atonement for mankind. The apostle Paul spoke of his obligation to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ". Col. 1:24. He is not suggesting that Christ left anything undone in His work of redemption. That work was finished and its provision complete. The full price of man's salvation has been paid. But Paul would have us know that the spirit of the atonement must be perpetuated by the followers of Christ if the salvation of sinners is to be accomplished.

This dispensation was ushered in by great suffering on the part of Jesus and His disciples and if the atoning work of our Lord is to reach and bless the world the spirit of sacrifice and suffering must continue. Dr. Jowett, comment on Col. 1:24, says that "where there is a real lift, there must be a corresponding strain, where the crooked is made straight, virtue must go out of the erect". He further states: "The Gospel of a broken heart demands the ministry of a bleeding heart. We bleed to bless".

We do not like to suffer. It is not human for us to desire burden bearing, especially when the burden belongs to someone else. And yet Paul admonished us to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". If God's people had more burden and concern for sinners, would it not be possible that we would see more results in our revival campaigns? We put forth much effort in prayer, preaching, singing, etc., in our campaigns, but often the meeting closes with little by way of victory. There is a lack of real conviction on the unsaved. Perhaps if we humbled ourselves, asked God to forgive us for our lack of heart concern, died to our own interests and rid ourselves of some of the things that are displeasing to God, we would see revival. The fact is, we need to reduce. There is too much of self. The great apostle again admonishes: "Put off the old man with his deeds . . .". If we hold onto the old man, we can't expect to be blessed in bringing men to Christ.

The Psalmist wrote: "Thou desirest truth in the inward parts . . . the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise". It is stated of Christ: "He suffered, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God . . ." and again: "If Christ so loved us, we ought also to love one another". Dear Lord, save us from the sin of selfish ease and luke-

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