

# The King's Highway

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### Brainerd, Man of Prayer

By Rev. E. M. Bounds

God has now, and has had, many devoted, prayerful men in whose lives prayer has been a mighty, controlling, conspicuous force.

God found one of the men he was looking for in David Brainerd. No story more sublime has been recorded in earthly annals than that of David Brainerd. No miracle attests with diviner force the truth of Christianity than the life and work of such a man.

Alone, struggling day and night with consumption of the lungs, unschooled in the care of souls, having access to the Indians, whose salvation he sought, for a large portion of the time only through the bungling medium of a pagan interpreter, with the Word of God in his heart and his soul fired with divine flame, he fully established among the American Indians the worship of God, and secured all its gracious results.

The Indians were changed with a great change from the lowest besotments of an ignorant and debased heathenism to pure, devout, intelligent Christians; all vice reformed the external duties of Christianity at once embraced and acted on; family prayer set up; the Sabbath instituted and religiously observed; the internal graces of religion exhibited with growing sweetness and strength.

David Brainerd was God's man—for God first, last, and all the time. God could flow unhindered through him. The omnipotence of grace was neither arrested nor straitened by the conditions of his heart.

The whole channel of his life was broadened and cleared out for God's fullest and most powerful passage so that God, with all his mighty forces, could come down on the hopeless, savage wilderness and transform it into his blooming and fruitful garden; for nothing is too hard for God to do if he can get the right kind of man to do it with.

#### Divorcement From the World

Brainerd lived the life of holiness and prayer. His diary is full and monotonous with the record of his seasons of fasting, meditation, retirement. The time he spent in private prayer amounted to many hours daily.

"When I return home," he said, "and give myself to meditation, prayer, and fasting, my soul longs for mortification, self-denial, humility, and divorcement from all things of the world . . ."

"Feeling somewhat of the sweetness of communion with God and the constraining force of his love, and how admirably it captivates the soul and makes all the desires and affections to center in God, I set apart this day for secret fasting and prayer, to entreat God to direct and bless me with regard to the great work which I have in view of preaching the gospel to the Indians.

"I had in prayer but little life and power in the forenoon. Near the middle of the afternoon, God enabled me

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### Marriage Cement

In Gospel Herald

What this generation needs, and badly, is an unbreakable marriage cement. It is not possible that the God who ordained marriage in the first place would fail to provide such a bond. Yet in the constantly spiraling tabulations and frequent publicizing of the divorce disaster, how seldom is God's own magic formula mentioned.

The repeated references to the high divorce rate, rather than being remedial, may only tend to encourage the disillusioned, disappointed, unhappy and discouraged to resort to the same popular means of terminating their marriage. What we need is a re-emphasis of God's strong, unailing marriage bond.

That bond is love! Love is a stranger to incompatibility. People get along with each other by love, or they are bored. Love spells compatibility. Love dissolves tensions. Love is of God. Marriage is sacred in all, is entirely of God's design, and to be accounted for to Him.

Though God is Author and Giver of this marriage love, husbands and wives are responsible for its maintenance after the ceremony. While homes must be established and maintained, the children reared, the property guarded, the business attended, yet first of all couples are to cherish and foster this choicest of their possessions—their marriage love.

This supercedes all other loves—love of home, of business, of children (these they are to love together); but their love for one another comes first in their loyalties. How easy it is for a wife to put her child before her husband, or for a husband to put his business ahead of his wife. Too often love is simply taken for granted, and thus lost.

Before God and the witnesses the two make their vows—to love, until death, come what may. Where this is maintained at any cost, the marriage is maintained. Most marriage consultants have known homes that have been held together and eventually prospered by the very refusal of one of the partners to surrender their love. In the majority of marriage failures it will be discovered that the vowed love was not kept. Had it been, it would have overcome the difficulties.

Another factor, easily forgotten, is that love is a matter of one's will. We can will to love or not to love. Concerning his difficult mate, a young father cried, "I don't love her any more—I can't!" But when shown that he could if he would, and that his will in the matter was under his own control, enabling him to keep his vow, he resolved that he would love, by God's grace, with the result that he returned to his family. Love dissolved his divorce action.

A pretty young mother was sure that she and her husband were not "well mated," and that she was in love with a former sweetheart, now a married man with a family. She was shown that her husband's faults, like

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