

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

THESE THINGS ABIDE

There is an ebb and flow of interest in things spiritual. At certain times the majority of people are indifferent and unresponsive toward God and the Gospel. Then there are periods of resurgence—"back to God" movements become popular.

It would seem that we are now in one of those "re-surgent" periods. There is an enlivened interest in evangelical Christianity that is almost, if not altogether universal. Huge throngs of people are attending Gospel services in various parts of the world, many are professing saving faith in Christ, and, in some areas, genuine revivals seem to be breaking out and going on.

One of the lessons we learn from these "back to God" trends, is the abiding value of some spiritual assets and practices. There are certain characteristics which seem to appear in every period of spiritual awakening. They are to be found in the history of the Wesleyan Revival, the D. L. Moody evangelistic campaigns, and others of the past, and they are found in contemporary evangelism, the Billy Graham "crusades", and the great movings of the Spirit now being witnessed in the world.

Prayer has always been a major factor in revival. There may be periods when there is little prayer, and times when the meaning and practice of true intercession seem all but lost to the church and the world, but if and when there is an awakening to righteousness, prayer will always play a prominent part in paving the way for it.

The power of the Word of God is always a saving force in true revival. "The Bible says . . ." is the oft-repeated phrase of evangelist Graham, and his consistent use of the scriptures would rank second only to the tremendous volume of prayer ascending for his campaigns, as an explanation of the phenomenal success of this youthful herald of the Gospel of Christ.

Hymns and songs which bespeak personal trust in and love for the Saviour are heard in every great evangelistic era. Bev. Shea, Ira Sankey, Homer Rodeheaver, Charles Wesley, and others, performed as great and fruitful ministers in soul-winning through music, as their preaching contemporaries. In revival time, the doleful, impersonal music of religion with powerless form, are displaced by "Blessed

Assurance", "What A Friend", "Trust and Obey" and other beloved hymns and songs.

It has been a source of encouragement and inspiration to me to observe that twentieth-century evangelism is employing the same principles and practices in seeking to point men to God that have been part of our church programme so long as I can remember, and long before that. And I believe that if we continue to give prominence to prayer, the Word of God, and the singing of hymns and songs which reach the heart, we shall be following the right course no matter how the tide of popular opinion is flowing.

WE NEED FIRE!

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legiance. It is this fire of devotion to Jesus Christ that burns with a flame so hot that no lesser fire can survive it.

Which shall it be in your case? The fire that roars out of hell to consume the soul with pride and lust and the heat of false philosophies? Or the fire that falls from God's heaven to kindle within the Spirit's glowing ardor, and will turn all of your complacent belief into burning convictions?

The Choice Is Ours

"But" says the concerned readers of these lines, "what are we to do if we want Christ's fire to possess and enkindle us?"

If I want to be one of Christ's incendiaries, myself kindled and thus able to kindle others, what shall I do?

1—I can be honest with myself.

I can frankly, with pride-killing candor, admit that I have not been on fire for Jesus Christ and His Church.

The Church is full of people whose commitment to Christ is safe and limited." I can humbly confess that I am in that camp. Confessing it, I see how really shameful it is, especially when I look into the New Testament and see that normal first-century discipleship was neither "safe" nor "limited" but hazardous and unlimited. Unreservedly abandoned to Jesus Christ, those trail-blazing Christians counted not their lives dear unto themselves.

2—I Can Pray With All My Heart and Soul:

"Lord, end this wishy-washy, lukewarm, mumbling religion. Lord, set us on fire. Put the divine fire in us before the atomic fire destroys us and our world. Take away our small thoughts and love. Make us big as the world in vision. Take away our weakness. Fill us with the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help the sleeping might of Britain and America to be awakened into glorious action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"We are sick of our disgusting indifference and Thou art sick of us. Do not spew us out of Thy mouth, but set us on fire! We have been afraid, and hid our talent in a napkin. God of courage, sweep out our pitiful timidity! Make us divinely unafraid. Help Christendom to rise, not in fine sounding words, but in deed and in fire and in truth, and change this defeat—in the battle for Christ's victory over the world, the flesh and the devil into glorious triumph!

"Lord, send a Pentecost at any cost; send a Pentecost and begin in me, now! Keep Thy promise, Lord, and baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire! Face us the other way around. Start us ahead. The altar is ready, the offering is ready. Lord, now send the fire; Amen."

3—I can trust!

The authentic fire of Christ's love and sacrificial passion is not mine to create; it is mine to receive. I can not work it up; I can only surrender to it. Turn to Matthew

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