

The King's Highway

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RETURN UNTO THE LORD

By Andrew Murray

Revival must be asked and received direct from God Himself. An extraordinary spirit of prayer, constraining believers to much secret and united prayer, pressing them to "labour fervently in their supplications, will be one of the surest signs of approaching floods of blessing. If there is to be a mighty Divine awakening it will be born in the wholeheartedness of our prayer and faith for it.

Let no believer think himself too weak to help, or imagine his prayers are not needed. Let every believer stir up the gift that is in him and begin to cry every day, "Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?"

Every revival has come as Pentecost came, as the fruit of united, continued prayer. It is in the closet, with the door shut, that the sound of abundance of rain will be heard. An increase of secret and united prayer with ministers and members will be a sure harbinger of blessing.

"Thus saith the high and lofty One . . . I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit . . . to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Is. 57:15).

Humiliation and contrition have ever been the conditions of Revival. If there is no humiliation, and forsaking of sin there can be no revival or deliverance. "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My Word."

Christ's Sermon on the Mount promises the Kingdom to the poor in spirit, and to them that mourn. In Paul's Epistles, the religion of man, of worldly wisdom and confidence in the flesh is denounced. Without sin being confessed and forsaken, all the promises of grace and the Spirit are rendered void. All the glorious promises given to the seven churches in Revelation are dependent on the one word—Repent!

If there is to be revival among our churches to give a holy, spiritual membership, that trumpet sound needs to be heard—Repent! In the Church of our day there is an idolatry of money and talent and culture, a worldly spirit, making it unfaithful to the one and only Husband and Lord.

There is a confidence in the flesh that grieves and resists God's Holy Spirit. Let us all who long for revival, hasten it by asking the Lord to prepare His prophets to go before His face, crying aloud and sparing not, lifting up their voice like a trumpet and showing His people their transgressions!

"Come, let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten; and He will bind us up . . . He will revive us: . . . and we shall live in His sight" (Hos. 6:1-3). It is as we return to the Lord that revival will come. O let us return, in the surrender of a dependence and a devotion which has no measure but the absolute claim of Him Who is the Lord!

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THE PERSONAL TOUCH

J. C. McPheeters, in "The Herald"

Jesus found Andrew, Andrew found Peter, and Peter preached a sermon on the Day of Pentecost that won three thousand to Christ; Philip found the Christ, and Philip in turn found Nathanael. Thus we find Christ's early ministry beginning with the personal touch.

No Adequate Substitute

There is no form of ministry that can take the place of the personal touch. The ministry of prayer, song, and preaching all have a vital place in the advancement of Christ's kingdom. But these cannot take the place of personal evangelism. All of these forms of ministry must be supplemented by personal work. It so often happens that this method wins after all others have failed. John Wesley heard the Moravians preach when he was in Savannah. But it was not until he returned to London and came in contact with the personal appeal of Peter Bohler that he came into the experience of having his heart "strangely warmed."

Difficult But Fruitful

Personal work is the most difficult form of Christian endeavor. The temptation comes to substitute other things for this. It is easy to excuse ourselves on the ground that we preach, pray, pay, sing or teach, or that we just live our religion. It is easier to do any other form of church work than to go to a friend or neighbor and talk direct to that person about Jesus Christ. But while this is a difficult task, it is fruitful in large results.

A Sunday-school Teacher

How many are familiar with the name of Mrs. C. C. Binckley of Richmond, Indiana? Her name was never known to the world, but the world will never forget J. Wilbur Chapman. Mrs. Binckley was a teacher of a class of boys in a Methodist Sunday school. J. Wilbur Chapman was one of the boys who belonged to her class. One Sunday a special evangelistic sermon was held for the entire school. The leader of the meeting invited all who would give their hearts to Christ to stand. All of the boys of Mrs. Binckley's class had stood but one. This was J. Wilbur Chapman. Mrs. Binckley approached him and made a personal appeal. She even took him by the arm to assist him in standing. In later years Dr. Chapman described the experience which came to him that day. He says: "I can never describe my emotions. I do not know that that was the time of my conversion, but I do know it was the day when one of the most profound impressions of my life was made upon me. Through all of these years I have never forgotten it, and it was my Sunday-school teacher who influenced me thus to take the stand—it was her personal touch that gave me courage to rise before the school and confess my Saviour."

The Conversion of Spurgeon

Over in England a man by the name of Knill, representing the London Missionary Society, went into a community

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