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Flickering Fundamentalism

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The answer to any paralytic condition spiritually is a visitation of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. There are scores of people today who are problem conscious, pain conscious, powerless conscious but it seems that very few of us are God conscious! It was when the prophet Elijah had heard the still small voice of God, that he went from his hiding to horrify Jezebel and to cause Ahab to lie in sackcloth of sorrow. He turned the tide of sin, threatened the security of a nation and from the top of Carmel prayed a flood-tide of rain on a barren, bleak land!

The need of this late hour is a fresh unveiling of God to our unbelieving and fearful hearts. One has said, "It may be necessary for us to cease from our own endeavors in order to enlist the mighty intervention of God." God is our only hope in this day, as He has been in any other age. We are in a crisis as a nation. The Church must be put on a war-footing—not within but without—if we are to avoid the judgments of God.

In this day of delusion we must have a revelation of the Divine. Every age must have its move of God or the next age will be more wicked and diabolical. Every generation of saints are responsible for their generation of sinners. The fire-baptized Wesleys shook three nations for righteousness. Savonarola shook Italy with his holy zeal. One has said, "We had better be turning nations from the power of Satan to God as did John the Baptist, brethren, than to die loaded with ecclesiastical honors and theological degrees."

It is said of the Moravian revival, that in the thirty years following the outpouring of the Spirit on the congregation at Herrnhut, the Moravian evangelists, aflame for God, had carried the Gospel not only to nearly every country in Europe, but also to many pagan races in North and South America, Asia and Africa. Dr. Warneck, German historian of Protestant missions, wrote, "This small church in twenty years called into being more missions than the whole evangelical church has done in two centuries." More than one hundred missionaries went from this village community in twenty-five years.

Communism is not our biggest foe! Hollywood is not our biggest threat! Modernism is not our biggest monster! Our greatest foe, our greatest threat, our greatest monster is a flickering fundamentalism! The Church alone can limit the Holy One of Israel. What advantage is it to be fundamental if our candle is flickering?

The Church must be more than a custodian of Christianity. We are not called to build museums for the storing of old relics of the yesterdays. The only thing we are to guard is the flame! Could it be that most of us gage our genuineness by the visit to the museum or by the gray ashes of another generation of heroes?

Flickering fundamentalism refers to its history, but fails to make history. This type of fundamentalism enjoys

the campfire. It gets much pleasure from the old homestead but not from the beachhead. Collecting keepsakes becomes its greatest delight to stimulate its faith. It finds pleasure in strolling through the Hall of Fame admiring the soldiers of other days who lie in the cold, silent tomb. Armine Gesswein said, "First there is the man, then a movement, then a machine, and then a monument."

With the diluting of the Word, the crystallization of our creeds and the deification of our doctrines, we have produced fickleness in our ranks for the living God. Truth must be kindled or it kills. Knowledge without Christ's anointing becomes dry doctrine, but with the anointing it becomes dynamite! It has been said, "This is a day of a restricted and relegated Holy Ghost even in fundamentalist circles." Could it be possible that if a Hannah prayed in our presence we might mark her mouth, as did the old backslidden priest? Who is there among us with an unquenchable thirst for the living God?

"We taste, Thee, O Thou Living Bread
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill."

Many can uncover the sins of others, but who can uncover the face of God? This is the very reason many of us are at the dead-end street. Revivals do not come where we are satisfied with our spiritual situation. In this age we need men who will uncover the face of God. Conditions have never been ideal for revival in any age! The Church has always had its conflicts. The new Testament Church is no exception. But in the face of conflicting conditions God has always found a man to bring the Church face to face with the conquering Christ. Let it be said that we are not about to surrender to our situation!

Christ is able to banish our worldliness; He is able to burn up our wounds and to fire-baptize our witness till we tell our generation The Story. Never think that this jet-age found God asleep. He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega.

Our merciful God will pardon our sins, purge our iniquities and pity our ignorance but a lukewarm heart is an abomination in His holy sight. Dr. Wilson said, "We will do more for Christ following fools on fire than scholars on ice. If we are to accomplish anything for Christ we must be on fire with holy enthusiasm that will seem like madness to our generation! A hot, blundering man will do more than a cold, correct man. Ours is a gospel to be preached. A remedy to be proclaimed."

We have a cultivated Christianity that needs to be rebuked, rekindled, refined and refired by its Founder—the Holy Ghost. It is foolish for us to think we can run the Spirit's work on our cultured flesh and our calculated

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