



## BURN OUT FOR GOD

(Abridged)

By Oswald J. Smith, D. D.

"Now let me burn out for God." Those were the words of Henry Martyn. Not only was his heart on fire for souls, it was on fire for God. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ and because he loved Him he served Him.

What was it that drove David Brainerd to the savage Indians of the great howling wilderness? What was it that made him leave his home when he was only 24 years of age, and dwell alone in the heart of the wild, tractless forests of the interior, that enabled him—though dying with consumption, weak and feeble from lack of food, long tiring rides on horse-back, dismal, comfortless nights in the open woods under a pouring rain—to press on month after month? Was it pity? Was it duty? Of course not. It was love.

So it was with Judson, Livingstone, Morrison, Taylor, Carey, and all the great heroic missionaries of the past. Yes, and even so will it be with you, if you really love Him. You will prove it by glad, happy service. You will even lay down your life, if need be, if you love Him. Do you? If you love Him you will go, you will give, you will pray.

Why is it that you do not go? Is it because you are needed at home? Is your mother saying that she could not get along without you? Listen, mother! There comes a time when the hand of your daughter is sought in marriage. You give her up. For some reason she is no longer needed at home. At least you feel that you can spare her, and so she goes away. What have you done? You have given her to an earthly bridegroom and refused the heavenly Bridegroom. Jesus, her Saviour, wooed and won her first. Then He asked her to follow Him, but you answered: "No, Lord, I cannot spare her." Then came the earthly bridegroom and, well, you know the rest. I wonder what you will say when you meet Him? Do you remember what He said: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt 10:37).

The question is simply this: Are you willing to accept God's plan for your life? If so, you will invest your life in terms of service. Jesus gave up all for us. Is there nothing we can give for Him? Is there nothing we can do in return? He Himself taught us what it means to be a true disciple. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16: 24-26).

"Say not ye, there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4: 35). Thousands, there are, who have no vision or knowledge of the need. Hence great sums of money are wasted on expensive church buildings and equipment, while millions perish without even a mud hut in which to hear the Good News. One real look through the eyes of Jesus Christ and we will sink our funds, not in bricks and mortar, luxurious Bible training schools and expensive institutions, but, in the souls of men. We will worship in old buildings, if necessary, in order that the "other sheep" may also have a part. Non-essentials will give place to needs, luxuries dispensed with, personal and selfish gratification most carefully guarded, and life

henceforth lived for those who have never heard the Gospel. That is, if our hearts have been moved with the compassion of Jesus and our eyes anointed to see as He saw.

Oh, then, let us look, look as we have never looked before. And as we see in vision the teeming millions of China and India, the benighted multitudes of Africa and South America, let us listen again to the Master's words and catch a glimpse of the urgency of the need: "Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Yes, and this may be our last opportunity of showing our Lord how much we love Him. Some of us may soon be gone, for "the night cometh when no man can work." There are those who up to the present have lived for self, and self alone, and now their years are numbered. Never yet have they manifested their love for Jesus Christ in any worthwhile way. Oh, then, let us be up and doing. Our last opportunity will soon be gone. In God's name let us lift up our eyes and look, and then let us do something about it.

Oh, Christian worker, what are you doing about it? What have you done? How will you face them in that day? What will you say when you meet them up yonder? Can you bear the thought? Your Master's commission is clear, plain and emphatic. The appalling need has been brought before you again and again. The appeal has been made time after time, but you have remained indifferent. Some of you are spending more money on yourselves in a single week than you are giving to missions in a year.

"O church of Christ, what wilt thou say  
When on the awful judgment day,  
They charge thee with their doom?"

### NEUTRALITY IMPOSSIBLE

Every man is a missionary now and forever, for good or for evil, whether he intends or designs it or not. He may be a blot, radiating his dark influence out to the very circumference of society; or he may be a blessing, spreading benediction over the length and breadth of the world; but a blank he cannot be. There are no neutral characters. We are either the sower that sows and corrupts, or the light that splendidly illuminates.—Chalmers.

### WHAT PRAYER WILL DO

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart. Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.

—Bunyan.

### ON WITH THE MESSAGE!

On with the Message! On with the Light!  
On to the regions still shrouded in night.  
On to the nations who never have heard;  
On with the life-giving, soul-saving Word.

On with the Message! Message of pow'r.  
Message to meet every need of the hour.

On with the Message o'er land and o'er sea;  
On with the Truth that can set sinners free.

On with the Message! Carry it on.  
Millions in darkness still pray for the dawn.  
Millions for whom Christ's own blood did atone  
Die in their darkness, unreached, and alone.

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