

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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## — Editorials —

### Guest Editorial

#### WHEN REVIVAL TARRIES

P. W. Thomas, Editor, Pilgrim Holiness Advocate

It may be that revival tarries because we seek it on the wrong level. We ask revival for our church when we need to seek it for ourselves as individuals.

"Revive thy work," is a scriptural prayer; but revival in the church is essentially a matter of our personal relationship with God. Revival begins and spreads only as the people of God meet the conditions of blessing in their own hearts.

God never saves people en masse. They may come by families, as in the case of the jailor's household (Acts 16:30-33); or in small armies, as on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), but each one must meet the Lord on the terms of the gospel. Once a revival gains momentum, there are those who join the crowd to do no more than repeat what they are told, and copy what they see; but they are not of God any more than Simon Magus, who was rebuked by Peter (Acts 8:20-30).

No man can live for God unless from time to time he experiences the renewing of divine life in his own soul. There are to be daily renewings (II Cor. 4:16), and renewings in the face of special need and opportunity (Acts 4:29-31). And when the soul has lost ground and the world has begun to seep in, nothing but a thorough heart searching with repentance and faith will meet the need. Jesus recognized the glorious history and active ministry of the Church at Ephesus, but called the people to repentance and a renewal of their first works because they had "left their first love" (Rev. 2:4).

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25). It is a wonderful thing to have been made alive in the Spirit, but we can make too much of former crises experiences to the neglect of the present. It is so easy to fall back on the glories of other days when we seek to calm our anxieties about today's spiritual poverty. The big thing is our life in the Spirit today!

Life in the Spirit calls for unfeigned faith—sincerity, deep humility. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him" (Col. 2:6). No one ever

received Jesus except with a humble, obedient, trusting heart. If we are to maintain a daily life of victory and revival fire it must be by the same holy rule.

One hindrance to revival in the individual heart is the reluctance to make our need known. Sometimes it is hard to acknowledge it to our own hearts. We are so prone to be filled with reasons and excuses, when the case calls for humility and confession. God promises forgiveness and cleansing for sin when we walk in the light, but there is no cleansing when we make excuses. Pride and self-esteem lead us to defer to the opinions of men, rather than to obey the conviction of the Spirit. Jesus said, "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44).

The nature of our shortcomings do not always need to be made public, certainly some of them should never be mentioned; but the fact that we have needed the touch of heaven and found it, is grounds for open testimony and praise. One reason why King Saul's repentance did not bear the mark of sincerity is because he wanted it kept secret from the people. God only knows how many souls have drifted into lukewarmness and utter spiritual darkness because they refused to humble themselves at an altar of prayer.

God's ancient formula for revival, given at the dedication of the Temple, has never changed. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14).

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#### CHALLENGED BY THE DIFFICULT

by B. H. Phaup, General Superintendent,  
Wesleyan Methodist Church

One need not be a pessimist to admit that these are difficult and desperate days. Crises are ordinary things. They almost tumble over each other in the mad race to get here. It is easier to repeat pious phrases, make new resolutions, and pledge devoted lip-service, than it is to accept such experiences as a challenge to demonstrate courage and ability which are products of a vital union with the Divine.

Neither the Church, nor individual Christians, can fulfill God's purpose by disassociating themselves from the realities of our day. It is not our place to stand on the sidelines and watch the world go by, all the while deploring the dismal plight of men and nations. A robust, virile church should stand in the midst of cataclysmic events, and point the way to God and the path to deliverance. Unless the Church assumes this proper role, not only will it merit the disdain of man, it will court the disfavor of God. It is not the plan of the Great Head of the Church that the Church follow apologetically behind earth's events just in case there are fragments which might be redeemed; but rather that it march at the head of the parade of events, lending an eternal flavor and direction to the affairs of men. Oh, how different would our world be today if this had always been true.

The Church should recognize today as the day of its greatest challenge. The need was never greater than now! The Gospel was never more potent than at the present! Every essential element of Pentecost is yet at our disposal. Facilities for reaching men with the Gospel were never more adequate. The most distant points of earth are only a few hours away. The hearts of men are hungering for that which only Christ can supply. There is a strong feeling in many quarters that God is moving to