

THE ABIDING EXPERIENCE OF HEART HOLINESS

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5. While received instantaneously, there is need for continuance, progress, and growth afterwards.

6. It implies a deliverance from all conscious sin. The recipients said indwelling sin had been rooted out of them.

7. Those early Methodists were most careful not to claim perfection, or sinlessness, or even enjoyment of that great salvation.

I am at a little loss to know what Dr. Flew had in mind against his seventh point. Maybe it was overcautiousness lest self should be unduly magnified.

Many of John Wesley's spiritual children now have to labor and minister outside the official denomination. From the platforms of Wesleyan and Free Methodism, the Pilgrims, Nazarenes and oth Holiness bodies you will still hear the evangel proclaimed fearlessly.

This experience of heart holiness is something received subsequent to conversion. It is a blessing for believers who while they are happy in a state of forgiveness—and justification—as yet know nothing of that inner purging process whereby the "body of sin" is "done away" as Romans 6:6 puts it.

I would describe this experience of holiness as "the promise of the Father," "the gift of the Holy Spirit," and the "endowment with power from on high." You will remember that at His ascension the Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to "tarry in the city of Jerusalem" until they were endued with power from on high. "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you" He said, "and ye shall be my witnesses." With the opened Bible in our hands we endeavored to show that this endowment was one of power, the power of the Holy Ghost Himself. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." But it is also an endowment of heart purity, for when God fills a believing heart with His Spirit, He also (at the same moment) cleanses it from sin's inbeing—"The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth from all sin." "God who knoweth the hearts of all men bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit...purifying their hearts by faith," says Acts 15:8,9.

It is also an endowment for you and me today. The promise is to you, to your children, and to those who are afar off, said Peter.

For you! Ask God's Spirit to take you gently in hand, to reveal to you afresh the depths of inbred sin, then to reveal to you the cleansing efficacy of the Saviour's atoning blood. Pray God to give you an "Isaiah six" of your very own, whereby you will hear His call but realize first and foremost your own incapacity to fill the sacred place. Then will the live coals of God be taken by the tongs and placed upon your defiled lips, and God will say to you, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, thy sin is purged, and thine iniquity is taken away."

Cleansed from all sin, God's Spirit will then be able to take up His abode in your heart and reign unrivaled.

So, to my final prayer for you: The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 5:23). All this because this is the will of God (for you)...your sanctification, and God hath...called us...unto holiness (I Thess. 4:3,7).

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"A missionary does not necessarily go outside of his country, his state or even his own community. A true missionary needs only to go outside himself."

Steps to the Altar (No. 5)

by Rev. George E. Failing

WHERE SHOULD YOU DATE?

Early dating probably ought to be group dating, at supervised social activities. There are good reasons for group dating. It is wholesome and safe. The presence of others offers some help in acquiring social manners. Group dating also helps to reduce the too-great-shyness or self-consciousness of the two people just beginning to date. The presence of the group fills in the "waiting" moments, the "awkward" moments.

One further observation ought to be made about mixed company on group occasions. If two people find themselves unhappy in a normal group setting, unable to merge their interests with that of the group, unable to enjoy mutual company in the presence of other fellows and girls, they will not be well adjusted in further phases of companionship. For taking your friend into a "group" situation is a constant factor all through life, and the more successful one is in adapting to this the richer will all of life become. Of course, as dating merges into courtship, some privacy will be required.

Places for dating are important because the environment tends to elevate or degenerate the person. To be safe, one will choose places like he chooses persons—he will select the one that puts him at his best.

Home should certainly be a favorite place for dating. A happy home shows life at its fullest and best. There are the young and old. The family table is a good place for a date. And "doing" dishes after the meal is a "natural." There are games and music at home, and the best of atmosphere for a socially good time.

Church should certainly be considered important. Worship experiences together should mean a lot—and give much true indication of the integrity and spiritual worth of the individual.

Recreational and cultural activities are most suitable occasions for dates. These provide opportunity to share together the "fun and refining" phases of social life. Good clothes, manners, and good taste all come into play—if they are present. And the refreshment period afterward can be a real time of pleasure, also.

Outdoor activities are good. Hiking, tennis, volley ball, croquet, badminton are healthy to engage in, and lend themselves well to social good times.

Two final suggestions. By all means, take your "date" around to varied activities before you start courting. Scarcely a greater mistake could be made than to become acquainted only on one level, or in one area of activity. Remember, life is made up of all these situations, not just one or two of them. Include all of these in your places for dating.

And when you do date at the various places, discover what your partner likes. See if those likes largely coincide with your own. Ask yourself the question: "Does he (she) enjoy most of the activities I enjoy? Is he (she) at ease in the situations I like most?" If he (she) is not, don't allow dating to become courting. Be fair to yourself and to the other person. Remember, life friendships must be built upon mutual satisfactions. Dating will help you find the person with whom you can be most happy.

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"God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit the man, but the man to fit the robe."

"The idea some seem to have of service is 'serve us.'"