

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.

by a Committee of the Alliance.

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— SUBSCRIPTION PRICE —

Per year, in advance.....\$3.00

United States Subscribers..... 3.00

SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for the Highway should reach us before the 8th and 23rd of each month.

The King's Highway, Box 277, Moncton, N. B.

Printed by Moncton Publishing Co., Ltd.

Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

AUTHORIZED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL

POST OFFICE DEPT. OTTAWA

MONCTON, N. B., APRIL 29, 1961

— Editorials —

WE NEED THE HOLY GHOST!

Yes, we need the Holy Ghost. We, the Reformed Baptists; we who belong to the Wesleyan theological persuasion. Because we regard ourselves as the custodians of the doctrine of Holiness, we may overlook our urgent need of the Spirit of Holiness.

Dr. Chester Tulga, a Conservative Baptist, wrote a small but very useful book on "The Doctrine of Holiness in These Times". As an "outsider", Dr. Tulga makes a frank but fair statement concerning the doctrine of holiness and the people who sponsor it. He warns the Holiness Movement against a "liberalism which substitutes theological sanctification for personal sanctification".

As a Church, we have a rich heritage in sound doctrine. The statement of faith on which our Church was established remains with us without denial or deletion. Loyalty to the doctrines of our Church is required of all who would have part or lot with us either as members or ministers. So may it be as long as we are honoured with the task of propogating the Message committed to us.

We would do well to observe that in too many Churches theology has become a substitute for experience. Some Groups would be a power for God if their ministers and members were as strong and sound in experience as the Church is in its doctrinal statement. But alas, the lives of priests and people do not conform to the doctrines and creedal statements. They confess belief in repentance but do not bring forth its fruits; they declare faith in the New Birth but give little or no evidence of having become new creatures in Christ; they claim the right to bestow and receive the Holy Ghost, but there is neither sound nor sign to indicate that Pentecost is a reality in personal experience.

No Church is immune to this danger. All must be watchful against it. And all includes us.

We emphasize our belief in the Person and Work of the Spirit, but is there not evidence that we need Him? He is in our statement of Faith, but is He in our hearts, our services, our denominational programme?

Some will hasten to answer "Oh yes, He is with us. His blessing is upon us, His Presence we know and feel". Nor would I deny such claims. I know that He is with us, and our very survival is testimony to His Presence and

blessing. And yet, is there not a very real sense of need? Do some answer more slowly than others and in their answers confess that there is lack among us, at least in measure, of the graces of the Spirit? And even with those who quickly claimed the presence of the Holy Ghost, is there not agreement that we need the Holy Spirit in our lives and churches at least in greater measure and manifestation than we know Him?

Are we satisfied, even enthused, to hear sermons on holiness, when the power of the Spirit is painfully lacking? Are we blessed with a "saved and sanctified" testimony, when we should be troubled over the seeming absence of the fruits of the Spirit? Are we content with our "behind-closed-doors" holiness meetings, when we are making no vital impact for God on the world around us?

Impotence and inconsistency have been tolerated too often because the theology of the sermon and the testimony was accurate. Petulance and selfishness have been excused because the guilty "belonged", while we would have condemned as carnal the same attitudes and actions displayed by the "outsider". Scanty church attendance and barren altars have been explained by stating that holiness is unpopular and people are not willing to "die out".

When the Holy Ghost comes, sin and self are put to death by a fiery process, and when He abides to rule, they cannot return. When the Holy Ghost blesses and moves, sinners are brought under conviction and believers are added to the Lord.

The Way to Pentecost is only travelled by those who are willing to confess the unclean and the un-Christlike, and an evidence that we are living in the experience of Pentecost is the lack of the things we have confessed. The outpouring of the Spirit made the Church a growing, glowing, going force in the world, and when we are stunted, colourless, and inactive, as far as soul-winning is concerned, we need the Holy Ghost!

We need the Holy Ghost because there is too much narrowness, selfishness, and unkindness among believers. We need a fire that will consume this chaff!

We need the Holy Ghost because there is too much lukewarmness of heart, too little passion for the lost. We need a love that will impel us to "weep o'er the erring one and lift up the fallen!"

We need the Holy Ghost because there is too much impotence and ineffectiveness in our service and services. We need power from on high that we may bring men to God and God to men!

The Holy Ghost will not come to those who do not sense, or will not confess, their need of Him. Water is promised to those who are thirsty; fullness of supply is the pledge to those who are hungry; power is proffered to those who are needy.

God waits to be gracious. "The promise is unto you." High heaven awaits our coming and our call. The world also awaits our return, longing for the blessings that we shall bring with us.

May "on to Pentecost" be our watchword!

KEEP THE SOUL FIRES BURNING

It is much easier to keep the fire burning than to rekindle it after it has gone out. Let us abide in Him. Let us not have to remove the cinders and ashes from our hearthstones every day and kindle a new flame; but let us keep it burning and never let it expire. Among the ancient Greeks the sacred fire was never allowed to go out; so in a higher sense, let us keep the Heavenly flame aglow upon the altar of the heart. —Selected

"God does not count our prayers, He weighs them. How much do your prayers weigh?"