

## THE OPEN TOMB

by Rev. N. E. Trafton

The open tomb is but the symbol of the power of the Resurrection applied to the needs of humanity. To the worshippers on that first glorious Easter there dawned the truth that nothing could withstand the energy of the Risen Saviour. Doors, hearts, and hopes, once encased in the icy grip of death, now swing open to embrace the eternal sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness.

THE DOOR OF FELLOWSHIP which had closed in the face of Mary Magdalene, swung open when the Master's feet pressed the threshold.

THE DOOR OF FAITH which had closed so cruelly on the disciples plodding wearily homeward to Emmaus, opened slowly and dramatically as He talked with them by the way. The burdened heart became the burning heart as with joy they exclaimed, "The Lord is risen indeed."

THE DOOR OF FORGIVENESS which had banged shut with a grating sound of finality, gave way in the early dawn as with penitent tears Peter choked out the depth-sounding words, "Thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love Thee".

THE DOOR OF FEAR behind which the disciples cringed for fear of the Jews was ignored by the sudden appearance of the Lord in the midst, speaking words of comfort and power. "Peace be unto you" and "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

THE DOOR OF FULFILLMENT gave way under the devastating blows of confession and intercession which dominated the upper room experience, consummating the purpose of redemption, setting hearts aflame with Holy Fire which could not be quenched by formalism or opposition. The Church moving out with banners waving spurned fire and sword to bear the good tidings afar. Thank God, the door still stands open. The fire and power of the Holy Ghost is still available. It is time for another offensive.

THE DOOR IN THE FIRMAMENT through which so many have passed, awaits the passage of the last column of battle-scarred soldiers, then to close forever on a world in the death grip of destruction. John saw this door that opened in Heaven. He saw Him that sat upon the throne surrounded by a rainbow. He heard the angelic choir composed of the ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands sing the new song; "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. The Risen Saviour holds all the keys. All doors are now open. The present is good, the future is glorious. Hallelujah.

## NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELISM

(Continued from Page One)

not stand alone. Faith is bolstered by works. By faith we believe the Holy Spirit will bring revival, but this faith is proved by our works. After we have faith for a revival, then we begin to work like God was already bringing it to pass. As we begin to prove our faith by our works, the contagious optimism begins to spread to others. The Holy Spirit energizes our minds and our wills to think and to do those things which bring revival. And faith is amazing; for when we begin to act like revival is at hand the Holy Spirit not only works through those of confident faith. He begins to move on cold and discouraged Christians, on the backsliders, and on the unsaved.

I have seen a church transformed by this contagious, optimistic faith. The services became different; even sinners and first-time visitors could not gainsay the

atmosphere of the church. A half empty choir was filled. Altar calls became a source of great rejoicing. "Old hard cases" were converted. The number of church visitors doubled, finances increased, and new families began coming. We still have the same pastor, the same church board, the same location, and some of the same underlying problems which the church has faced for years—but things are different now! The manner and mode of revival may shift with times and circumstances but the essence is the same. New Testament evangelism or twentieth century evangelism is still the work of the Holy Spirit.

## OTHERS MAY—YOU CANNOT

by George D. Watson, D.D.

If God has called you to be really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience, that He will not allow you to follow other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag on themselves, on their works, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making money, or having a legacy left to them, or in having luxuries, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because he wants you to have something better than gold, and that is a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord will let others be honored, and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.

He will let others be great, but keep you small. He will let others do a work for Him, and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing: and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over.

So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. He will take you at your word; and if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say. Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not deal with others. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.