

If I Had Prayed

by George E. Failing

If I had prayed, the whole day would have been filled with victories instead of defeats.

If I had prayed, I would have been in loving understanding with my Christian brethren rather than in relentless dissent.

If I had prayed, I would have seen open doors of opportunity to worship and witness, to heal and help.

If I had prayed, I would have had divine messages to deliver instead of constantly reiterating my own arguments.

If I had prayed, someone else would have prayed also, and the effect of that united prayer could not be measured.

If I had prayed, I would have sung all day long, instead of constantly complaining and faultfinding.

If I had prayed, Satan would have had a harder time trying to seduce my friends and loved ones.

If I had prayed, I would have had kindly words to say rather than cutting and heartless remarks.

If I had prayed, I would have recognized Satan's devices and escaped his snare.

If I had prayed, the shallow appeals of worldliness would never have enticed me from the stern but lovely way of the cross.

If I had prayed, I would have loved the children and taken time to help the aged.

If I had prayed, Christian youth might have found in me an understanding friend rather than an outdated fogey.

If I had prayed, the dreams of a friend might have come true.

If I had prayed, God would have kept my soul ceaselessly refreshed by His word.

If I had prayed, I would have discerned God's gentle guidance and I would not have persisted in a mistaken way.

If I had prayed, I would not have slandered God's anointed or tried myself to lord it over His people.

If I had prayed, I could have confessed my fault more graciously and the wound could have been fully healed.

—The Wesleyan Methodist

ATLANTIC PROVINCES PLAN CRUSADE

Halifax, Nova Scotia (CNB).—"Preparation, Penetration and Preservation" will be the keynotes of a 2-season Atlantic Provinces Crusade for which detailed plans were drafted at planning sessions attended by 150 clergymen in Fredericton and Moncton, N. B., and Truro, N. S. Plans call for evangelistic meetings in at least 15 of the major centers of the Atlantic Provinces during the next 14 months.

The goal of the Crusade, as defined by Dr. Leighton Ford, Canadian-born evangelist and member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team, is "mobilization of the entire membership of the co-operating churches in continuous evangelism with the aim of confronting every person with the claims of Jesus Christ."

Fall Crusade meetings will be held under sponsorship of local ministerial associations in Corner Brook, Newfoundland; Truro and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; and Woodstock, Fredericton and Moncton, New Brunswick.

The Spring Crusade is expected to reach some 10 major population centers, including Sydney, Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; St. John, New Brunswick; and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

It is not death that is tragedy—it is insignificance that is tragedy. —Frank E. Butterworth

The King's Highway

FOLLOW PEACE AND HOLINESS

by James Gregory

The epistle to the Hebrews was written during one of the great persecutions—probably to the Christians at Rome. They "endured a great conflict of sufferings." Many were imprisoned. Others had their property taken from them. They were not allowed to buy or sell in the market places. They were held up to public scorn. Many were put to death.

It was in this setting that we are exhorted, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). Even in days of persecution, and in our pagan days, God's great design for His people is holiness of life. The standard is high, "but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12). Through the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, we may "be partakers of his holiness" (Heb. 12:10).

What is meant by holiness? It is of interest that the definition of holiness given by Webster accords with Scripture. He defines it as the state of "being spiritually sound, whole or perfect; free from sinful affections; pure in heart; godly, pious, acceptable to God." We like that phrase, "free from sinful affections." It is a freedom which we all can experience.

In the pursuit of holiness, we are counseled, "Follow peace with all men." This is something more than getting along agreeably with others. The natural man looks at all of life through his own interests. Thus there arises a conflict of will with those whose interests differ from ours. But here is an available experience where we live at peace with our fellow men through the power of a new love—Christ's love—motivating our lives, and giving us a strong love for others. Such a cleansed life is the source of personal peace in this selfish world.

We are admonished, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness." The word "follow" suggests the deep intention of those who enter into holiness of life. The word is often translated "strive." It is sometimes used to refer to animals which pursue their prey, with strong appetite, through difficult forests or jungles, over long miles of hunting. One desire masters them. In this spirit we seek all God wills for us. Only in this spirit shall we realize that cleansing of the sinful heart which is called holiness.

"Follow . . . holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Here is the central truth of this great verse. Holiness is required of all men who will finally see the Lord. Those who reject or neglect the holy life need not expect to stand in God's presence at last. The words, "to see God," mean, "to enjoy Him." Without God's holiness we shall never enjoy God's presence in the world of heavenly blessedness. Indeed, no man would enjoy heaven without a disposition suited to that holy place.

Gaining heaven is not a light matter. It is commonly and truthfully said, "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people."

—The Free Methodist

Two things stand like stone: kindness in another's trouble, courage in your own.

Hem your blessings with praise lest they unravel.

Knowledge humbles the great man, astonishes the common man, and puffs up the little man.

Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it; if it is unfair, keep from irritation; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, learn from it.