

- Editorials -

WHEN YOU FAIL, TRY AGAIN!

A certain amount of failure seems to be a necessary part of living. No matter what profession we represent our efforts within that profession do not always issue in success. The doctor does not always save the life that is held in the balance. The lawyer does not always win his case. The farmer does not always get a bumper crop. And the government leader does not always lead his party to political power.

This being so, that some failure is necessary, we should not be so prone to discouragement and to despair when failure, in making its rounds, stops at our door. Indeed we will not welcome it; but neither should we go to pieces before it.

Perhaps most of us remember some fifteen years ago when almost overnight Rabbi Liebman's book *Peace of Mine* became a best seller. "How wonderful" we said, "for someone to be so successful." All know the success; few know the failure. For Rabbi Liebman's book was refused by twenty-two publishers before it was finally accepted by Simon and Schuster.

When you fail, try again!

The lesson has special point for those of us in the profession of soul-winning. More often than not we try, we fail, and we quit. "That man is not interested," we say. "I talked to him about his soul and I got no where." We have said it ourselves and we have heard it a thousand times. "I called at his house, invited him to church, but he's not a candidate." Then what do we do? The chances are that we leave this man and his family alone. This, however, is not the only possible course of action and is, quite likely, not the wise one.

Salesmen would starve to death if they allowed one failure to keep them from trying again. And although we do not like the idea that as soul-winners we are salesmen only, yet we must keep in mind that the psychology of selling applies to both. We must use every legitimate means, every tactic and strategy, to confront men fairly and effectively with the claims of the Gospel. If we fail, we must try again. The same method does not work with everyone. A second attack with a new approach may be the means of winning a man and his entire family to Christ.

Let's review our list of failures and give each case a second look. Let us ask God for special guidance. Some of those, now listed as hopeless cases, may well become saints of God.

I LOVE A STORM

This has been a year of storms—violent, nasty ones. All across Europe and North America it has been the winter of the century. A record amount of snow has fallen. Temperatures have set a new low in many areas. The total story of suffering will never be told. We sympathize, sincerely, with all those for whom nature's severity has meant loss and sorrow.

But as for the storms themselves—we like them! The howl of the wind, the creak of bending trees, the slat of wildly driven snow, the rattle of one loose window pane—all speak, in unmistakable language, the greatness of the universe, the power of God, the might of His Word. Before the fury of the tempest man's power is dwarfed to insignificance.

And storms do things to people. Some who never bother to speak when the sun shines become warm-hearted conversationalists in the midst of the storm. It is as if a common foe calls men to unity and understanding. Only

the hopelessly hardened maintain their cold dignity when nature decides to display her more undisciplined talents.

The damage of the storms we deplore. The inconvenience they cause we sincerely regret. But as for the storm itself—we're waiting anxiously for the next one.

REVIVAL !!

Nothing rejoices our heart more than to hear of a genuine moving of the Spirit—wherever it may happen to occur. But when it comes close to home, in one of our own churches, our joy is twofold. The letter in this issue from Rev. B. C. Cochrane tells just such a story. "I have not been in such a series of meetings in twenty-five years" says Brother Cochrane, writing of a recent revival series at the Moncton Church in which Rev. W. N. Teal, St. Catharines, Ontario, of the Free Methodist Church, was the evangelist.

All our churches need to experience a similar meeting. God is waiting to produce a new Pentecost wherever and whenever conditions make it possible. It may require some working, waiting, and watching on our part, but the "due season" of reaping will come if we continue faithful.

We note that certain factors are always present when real revival comes. (1) There must be NEED—those whose hearts need God and who at the same time are seeking for His grace. God cannot work in a vacuum. He must have open, hungry hearts. And need alone is not enough. There must be also those who want those needs supplied. (2) There must be a humbling of our hearts in confession to God and to one another. This is strongly Scriptural and sensibly practical. Revival can only come when hearts are united. (3) There must be fervent, desperate prayer. God works when men pray.

Thank God for news of revival! The best part is that God is still working. Our task is to keep the lines open. May God get through to all of us—soon.

The Preacher's Vow

By the grace of God and the strength of His Holy Spirit, I desire to lay down the rule not to speak to man until I have spoken to God; not to do anything with my hand until I have been upon my knees; not to read letters or papers until I have read something of the Holy Scriptures.—Dr. Henry Bonar

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