

Knowledge and Vision for Tomorrow

Judson A. Sanders.

We are living in times that are changing and changing swiftly. Yesterday's education will not fit young people for the jobs of tomorrow. Those who remain stagnant will be left behind. Industry is crying out for skilled specialists and unskilled labor is drifting into a realm where there is no work and no hope. To survive we must see, we must know, we must prepare. The changing times demand that we do this, or fall by the wayside.

What is true of the material realm, is also true in the realm of the spiritual. The tide of evil seems almost to have gained a new dimension. New and sinister forces, moving in the realms of the unseen, are making their presence felt. Godless ideologies that for decades lay inert in the dusty pages of books, have arisen and like Frankenstein monsters, are breathing fire, and the nations are trembling under the terror of their iron tread.

The nations are glowering at each other from behind stockpiles of weapons of destruction so fantastic, as to stagger the imagination. Atheistic Communism is sweeping the earth with the printed page of Red propaganda, and winning the battle for the minds of men.

We are living in an age, practically speaking, vastly and utterly removed from the times of fifty years ago. The Christian Education and Experience of yesterday utterly fails to adequately fit the Christian Soldier to meet the demands of the spiritual battles of tomorrow. There is a new vision, a new revelation, a new knowledge, and faith, and flame for the Christian of tomorrow. Without these he is no expert, and the spiritual battles of tomorrow are for experts only. The amateurs will be swiftly baffled and overthrown. But why do I say there is new equipment for the Christian warrior of tomorrow? That which is new is not true, and that which is true is not new.

The Church of Christ has lost the power it had in the generation that saw Pentecost, was filled with its flame, and endued with its power. In Christ dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and we are complete in Him. Paul prays that the readers of his epistle may be filled with all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. A body of believers filled completely with this filling would have the firepower and impact in the battle against evil that the first generation early New Testament Church had, and would today produce the same effect. If the effective power of a body of believers is to be judged by the intensity of persecution that the Devil brings to bear against them, by this criterion and standard of measurement, how much effective power do we possess and effectively manifest? We believe and admit that we do not have the flaming power and the propagating vitality of the Early Church, but do we believe that this complete fullness is for us here and now, and that if we do not have it, God will hold us responsible?

If the Apostle were to make a series of his hurricane, tidal wave, and volcano visitations among your Churches and mine what would he do? Would he not earnestly and lovingly berate us for losing important parts of Christ's formula for Holiness, Victory, and Power? Would he not settle down to a high pressure, high voltage session of supplying unto us that which was lacking? Would he not unplug our choked channels of power? Would you, yourself, not enjoy the feel of being among the number of those who turn the world up-side-down?

When a body of believers in Christ Jesus are baptized and filled with the Spirit, on fire and in harness on the job they are here for, there is a fulness, an abundance,

I WAS READING

by Dr. George Failing

● that according to present-day figures it costs \$12 a day to maintain a young man or young woman in college. A lot of money, indeed, as many of us parents of college-attending youth know, but none will deny that the age in which we live demands a college education for all who can possibly acquire it.

● about a booklet with an interesting and unbelievable title, *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*. The booklet may be purchased from the Navigators, Colorado Springs, Colorado, for 15 cents a copy. We might well ask ourselves these questions: "Have we spent a protracted time in prayer because we recognize the need for it, or have we not been quite sure what we would do with a whole day set aside especially to pray?"

● an eye-opening editorial entitled "Subsidized Illegitimacy" in *The Sunday School Times*, June 8. Here are the opening and closing sentences from the editorial: "One out of every eight children born in Chicago today is illegitimate. A New Jersey mother of 14 illegitimate children by 8 fathers has drawn \$62,650 in relief payments in 18 years. . . . No one wants to deny the less fortunate the help they need. But neither should we be forced to subsidize illegitimacy because our church and government leaders are afraid to insist on Biblical morality." *The Sunday School Times* is to be congratulated, I think, for their straightforward editorial policy that faces up to modern issues and tries to give a Christian evaluation of them.—The Wesleyan Methodist.

and an overflow. One sees extravagances, even a little holy confusion. There is exuberant and fearless demonstration. There is leaping and shouting and tears.

If Christ, in a season of His visitation should come and stand at our church doors and knock, would we have the awareness to let Him in, or would we sleep it through? Is the Christ we present and represent a weak, pale, anemic Christ, or a strong, virile, unshackled Christ, with face like the sun, and eyes like unto flames of fire? Are we virile, flaming, powerpacked Christians, or are we weak, pale and anemic, and is our church a sick hen hovering sick chickens?

Let us resolve all this in one question. Do we Practice the presence of God, and practice it with fervor, intensity, and free abandon? David said, My soul doth magnify the Lord. Does our soul so focus the flaming glory and power of God, that our inmost being seems to become a thing like a great crucible in which there glows and bubbles something molten and so hot that melted steel is coal by comparison? Perhaps your practising the presence of God does not resolve itself into a word or thought picture as intense as this, but if it is a habit of yours to draw near to God and be touched by His hand, and feel upon you the mantle of His anointing, your feet have come to know the path that leads into His presence.

I believe that we are standing at the very threshold of a visitation of God, and an outpouring of His Holy Spirit, "upon the earth" of an intensity and fiery effectiveness, as has not been seen, felt, nor experienced since the generation that saw Pentecost fall upon the hundred and twenty in the upper room.

We are only reading and applying a portion of the formula for full Christian living and warfare. As far as we are concerned, the rest is written in invisible ink. "My people perish for lack of knowledge." Where no vision is, the people perish." Today is the day that the sealed vision is being opened. Let us see that we listen with open ears and hearts unto him who runs and reads. Let us see that we practice the Presence of God with ever increasing intensity.