

### The Annual Red Creek Camp Meeting

(Continued from Page 3.)

gifts an increased measure of the power of the Spirit was liberated, and oftentimes there followed seasons of adoration, praise and worship, expressed sometimes in holy laughter or in dancing and at other times shouts of tumultuous joy. "Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth Me."

We are never to lose sight of the supremacy and exaltation of the Bible which is the living Word (Heb. iv:12 R.V.), absolutely and unqualifiedly infallible and authoritative as the rule of faith and practice for God's people. (II Tim. iii:16). "Thou hast magnified thy Word above all Thy Name" (Ps. cxxxviii:2). We recognize the subordination of the spoken word or prophetic word to the Bible which is the Written Word, which in no sense minimizes the practical value and reliability of prophecy and other prophetic gifts. In I Cor xiv: 29 we read, "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge." It is possible in prophecy to err in the communication of the Lord's mind perfectly; hence prophecy is to be tested. But "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Ps xii:6). The Holy Scriptures are immutable and always and at all times the final Court of Appeal in every doubtful doctrinal question. Again, "Whether there be prophecies they shall fail, whether there be tongues they shall cease; whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away" (I Cor. xiii:8). But there is no such time limitation as regards the Bible which is the eternal Word of the living God. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall not pass away." "Forever, Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven" (Ps. cxix:89).

In the days of Ezra, when the foundation of the temple was laid, the priests with trumpets and the Levites with their cymbals praised the Lord. They sang together; because He is good and His mercy endureth forever. It is recorded that all the people shouted with a great shout; so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the noise was heard afar off (Ezra iii:10-13). We are now in the dawning of a new day, when

throughout the earth the Lord is beginning to restore precious truths which for centuries have been lost to the church. Praise Him a new epoch is being inaugurated. The Lord's living stones are being brought together in anticipation of rearing the foundation of the New Testament Church. Truly there is reason and warrant for shouts of joy and jubilant praise.

M.W.M.

### God's Forward Movement

God has started many new movements of His power for the benefit and rescue of man. In 1906 began a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, known as the Pentecostal Movement which began in the greatest manifestations of the power of God any of us had ever seen.

But it is quite generally confessed amongst us that there has been a lapse and falling away from its original power.

In the earlier days it was generally believed that this Pentecostal Movement was a precursor and preparation for the very soon coming of the Lord. Since this backsliding trend is well known, something must be done if we are to be prepared for the return of the Lord.

In western New York and northern Pennsylvania are some 15 assemblies which the Lord has visited with a precious refreshing and praises are ascending for a rapidly growing restoration of much that had been lost through declension, and for an advance movement of the Holy Spirit.

One of the things that, in the early days of this outpouring, filled us with wonder and delight is the spirit of worship, adoration and praise which rested upon the people. This, accompanied by a supernatural glory, reverence and hush that was felt, produced awe in the people. This spirit of worship which had largely been lost has been restored to us in an appreciable degree.

We gratefully recognize a direct and powerful move of the Lord to free the people from all bondages including formalism. Many have come into this blessed liberty through abandonment to the Spirit which comprehends not only inward operations of the Spirit but also outward operations such as marching, dancing, shouting and other exercises of the voice; also by prostrations, mo-

tions of hands and various other physical demonstrations, all of which have precedents in the Bible. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. xii:1, R.V. Marg.).

One of the leading and most important of the gracious things God is doing for us is the coming forth of the spoken Word of the Lord in tongues and interpretation, prophecy, word of wisdom and word of knowledge. This spoken prophetic word is working wondrous deliverances and transformations of character in the people. It breaks bondages, illuminates the understanding, locates obstacles in the experience, solves problems, and opens up the way to victory. It unites the congregation in worship and activities in meetings. It opens, explains and elucidates the Bible and makes it increasingly precious to the believer.

All the spiritual gifts were in exercise in the New Testament church and by their means the church functioned.

The Word of the Lord was the original method of proclaiming the Gospel and it is very much more effectual than ordinary preaching.

Another of the great and gracious things that is being discovered is the way the Old Covenant of Law has been mixed with our teachings, giving a legalistic, hard and earthy cast to our ministry, magnifying the human side of the believer's relationship to God and causing us to lose sight of the all sufficient and powerful provisions of grace in the New Covenant.

There is also being opened to the understanding and wrought out by the Spirit transformation of character through the recreating power of God. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature," (II Cor. v:17; Mal. iii:1-5; Isa. xl:5-10; Heb. xii: 5-9; Matt. viii:17). This work of God in making over the very nature of man is plainly taught in the Scriptures. The revelation and teaching of these things has been very wonderful and glorious.

Another very precious teaching that has wrought wonders in the lives of our people is that we are called to live, day by day, a life in the power of the Holy Ghost. The flesh, sometimes called the old man,

or the natural man, is the soul which is living an earthy life. This soulish nature must be brought back under the dominion of man's spirit and the rule of the Holy Ghost.

Backslidden pentecostal ministry has descended from a ministry in the power of the Holy Ghost to a ministry of the soulish, natural man which can never bring forth a spiritual people nor prepare a people for the Rapture. It requires a deep, powerful and special preparation for the Latter Rain outpouring which has not yet fallen—a preparation, indispensably necessary to qualify people for membership in that company called the Bride of the Lamb.

Visions and prophetic dreams (Joel ii:28) are again recognized as characteristics of this Forward Movement, as was the case in earlier days of the great outpouring. When accredited, they are required to be, like prophetic utterances, in strict line and harmony with Holy Writ.

The most beautiful fellowship and spirit of accord prevails, and that without resolution, human effort, or organization.

We are striving for, and progressing towards the true organism, the New Testament Church, without organization or human machinery, recognizing Jesus Christ as our living Head, operating through the charismata. It is glorious. Hallelujah!

The Elim Bible Training School at Red Creek, N. Y., is fully in accord with the aims and principles of this Forward Movement. Its annual Camp Meeting whose exercises closed at about dawn on July 20th, was very glorious and supernatural. An immense amount of practical work in the Spirit was accomplished.

S.D.K.

### The Church Restored

Frank Bartleman

The Church of the present time, since the early Church's fall, is a backslider, but now coming home in the close of the dispensation. This refers to the true, mystical body of Christ. It is a "prodigal son," wandered from Father's house, but now returning, thank God! Except we understand this, we will not be able to move on with God, and understand the different stages, experiences, the various standards, operations, etc., in the Church's history, in this dispensation. The failure to

discern the decline of the Church is the reason why most Christians fail to move on with God and to accept His cumulative unfoldings in the restoration of revelation, light, experience, etc., once lost, but now being restored to the true Church.

The early Church ran well for a season. Everything went down before it. But about the fourth century she compromised to escape the cross. She sold out to the devil and backslid, and went down into "the dark ages." She lost the Holy Ghost, the "gifts," the life, the light, the power, the joy, everything. The Church became a prodigal, left the Father's house, and went to feeding swine.

When she ceased to go forward she started wandering in a circle, and lost out in the dark ages. The devil had found out that he could not destroy her or stop her march by persecuting or killing its members, so he removed the cross, offering them titles, positions, honour, salaries, emoluments of every kind, and they fell for it. They no longer needed to look to God for their protection and support. They were "like the nations round about them" now, as the children of Israel when they rejected God as their King. Likewise our great Church bodies to-day have sinned. Regarding human weakness and failure, history repeats itself in every movement.

Out of the "dark ages" finally came the great politico—religious, ecclesiastical Roman hierarchy, which in time dominated the whole world, both political and religious. And the same condition is developed out of every fallen movement. A bastard hybrid monster, both cruel and destructive. This was the condition of the formal Church in Martin Luther's time. But the seed of the true Church had remained buried in this mass, even through "the dark ages." This now began to spring up and germinate. The Church within the church.

Through Huss, Wycliff, Tyndale, Luther, Wesley, Knox, Finney, Moody and others the backslidden, prodigal Church has been coming home.

To-day, we can look back and see the different companies God has brought out in the Church, since the middle ages, in the line of restoration, right back along the way where they ceased to go forward for God, and where they began to mill 'round

in a circle, where their carcasses fell in the wilderness, as a body. Lutherans, Methodists, etc., etc. They ceased to be a forward company. Whenever we cease to go forward, to keep on the offensive for God, we stop and die as a movement so-called. And no movement has ever recovered itself as a body when it has once gone on the skids. In fact, a movement is no longer a movement when it stops moving, be it the Holiness Movement, the Pentecostal Movement, or any other movement. True, it may continue to increase both in numbers and in wealth, but that is no necessary sign of life and power with God. All anti-christian movements can show that kind of growth.

Every company, in time, repeats the experience of the early church, compromises to escape the Cross, accepts positions, salaries, titles, and ecclesiastical power, and builds up an ecclesiastical, sectarian hierarchy, as the fallen Church of the early ages did in "the dark ages." The backslidden Church is still in an abnormal condition, and will be until it becomes fully restored to God and to the early standard of Pentecost from which it fell. No experience or revelation in the line of gradual restoration has been perfect in itself. All is abnormal both in understanding and experience until the perfect whole is realized and restored. We need a readjustment to the Word of all our doctrinès, a rebalancing in the full, clear light of God. All past experience must be examined and determined in the light of a perfect whole. Only Pentecost is normal.

We may judge of this progress by the things the movement comes to demand. Entertainment, programmes, musicales, sensationalism, oratory, etc., etc.—all professionalism, flesh, flesh, flesh,—substitutes for the Spirit. Meetings can only be kept alive now, by continuous entertainment, professional evangelism, a strong social spirit, etc., etc. No life in itself to draw the people and bring God to them as at the beginning. Pastors and evangelists must have fixed salaries, their living assured, or they will not serve. They must have a fixed membership for this purpose. All is commercialized, not Pentecostal.

God has one great movement to which we all should belong, and that has never ceased moving. It is God's move through the ages to redeem a

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