

The Care and Keeping of The Message Of Holiness

By Earnest Seeker

However, you should be aware that this message is somewhat dangerous to those in the church, just as the message of salvation can turn unconvinced sinners against the gospel if used without specific wisdom, ("But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14), so it is that this message can turn believers against holiness if already satisfied believers hear too much of this better way.

Generally, the sermons contained on this website were preached to special gatherings that came just to hear this specialized message. Believers who were unconvinced of their need for a better grace generally stayed home.

And even so, these sermons were preached with some who had obtained His Rest present. These provided living examples to seekers that the words were not theory, but a present reality to those who would only pay the price.

Fruits, Gifts and Holiness

"And upon its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around. And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die. You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD. And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD. Exodus 28:33-38

No doubt you are used to a gospel which emphasizes salvation and the gifts. In the larger and more glorious gospel of the Scripture, salvation is typified by the robe. On its hem are embroidered pomegranates which signify "the fruit of the graces of the church" and His favor; Jesus, Himself being the source of all graces.

The pomegranate is a fruit tree that the Israelites grew in orchards, and loved to sit under. The character of it's fruit wins the hearts and souls of men since it is highly desirable and nutritious. The golden bells signify the gifts, which are placed here in order to draw attention to the wearer of the robe as he goes about His holy tasks. The engraved golden plate "Holiness Unto the Lord" is placed in the highest and most most prominent place possible, since it is the gateway through which priestliness itself is obtained and kept.

This priestliness preserves and keeps the people of the Lord clean and acceptable before the Lord. The believer who enters His Rest, finds himself filled with the winsome fruits of the Spirit, as well as gifts and priestliness in his measure.....

As you can see, that only those "hot for God" would want to get this involved.

Leaders

Also, your leaders will often perceive this word as deception. Recently, I received an email from one who had her minister preach publicly against it as soon as he heard of her interest in it. They know full well that these things are not true since they have been around for years, and already experience God's best within their current paradigm. Something better? Impossible, they say!! They know that old resources are to be avoided since they are out of date, irrelevant, and loaded with past deceptions.

These concepts also probably do not agree with their present conceptions, and of course all other conceptions are by very definition, deception. Be gentle. Pray for them, and they too may find a more complete paradigm. But don't be limited by their current limitations. They may soon change. Be respectful.

You don't want them to shove their truth down your throat; so don't try to do that to them either. Trust instead. Prayer is often your best method of communicating. Remember, for the good of the flock, leaders cannot afford to be quite as adventurous as you can be. They must stick with the tried and true. They must also do this to protect the income of their families, and the income for the church corporation as a whole. Not only that, but quite often there

are denominational overseers to keep happy...

For them, a new view must be thoroughly proven and voted in at the highest levels unless they are willing to lose their job, and their wives would never go along with that...

Doing Without Holiness

But looking back into the recent past I can see some patterns.

The Latter Rain Movement was spectacular in its introduction of the gifts starting in 1948. But its leader got lifted up by pride, due to lack of a pure heart, and the whole movement swiftly went sideways.

The Voice of Healing Movement in the 50s lost almost all of its tent ministries to sins of the flesh. Since then, for that good reason most denominational pentecostals have been very wary of the gifts. Why would they want to repeat these mistakes? This displays a limited wisdom since it recognizes that neither those movements nor themselves are truly equipped to use the gifts and stay out of trouble. Being Spirit-filled and speaking in tongues is fine, but... What they lack has been the pure and wholly stable heart found in His Rest.

Yes, there has certainly been some obvious troubles in learning the proper use the gifts, but when you think back, these are usually dwarfed by the damage done by weaknesses in character of the people involved. In my years, I have twice seen especially anointed groups totally lose their anointing. In one case due to a character flaw, a lady was eager to prophesy -and usually in the flesh. She was not restrained by leadership, even though there were plenty of obvious warning signs given by the Spirit.

In the other case, the main leader had marriage trouble that led to other difficulties. Whether it was his character or hers, I do not know, but the end result was his adultery and a new philosophy of laxity towards sin in his large network of churches. In both cases, the departure of the Spirit was sudden and total. One week the Spirit was there in the church, but you could sense the trouble. The next week it was just gone, never to return. Most of the people soon followed. Scary business.

The fear of God is job #1....

There is more on this cautionary sort of theme on the “Dancing With Ichabod” page. See especially:

Impure Hearts Foster Declension

This article from 1897 explains the necessity of the Holiness Movement in the Great Awakening, long before the Pentecostal Movement was established. The dominant burden of the Great Awakening was to bring believers to a second work of grace that purifies the heart by removing the fallen nature: those who obtain this work enter His Rest.

Believers with purified hearts comprised the majority of the early church, but when this was allowed to decline, the church naturally became impure also. Because of this, the road back to lasting revival always involves a return to this purity of heart. Without it, keeping His life in the church has always been problematic....

There are also numerous erroneous ideas about this topic, that are much more common than the true ones. These ideas are mentioned and countered throughout the website. ES

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