

the Lord when the latter told him that the cross was ahead. "Be it far from thee, Lord." To his mind the cross was an incredible thing. No wonder that he proceeded further at the trial of Jesus, and angrily denied his Master. Then came the resurrection and all became clear as the sunlight. As in a flash, Peter saw that Jesus was the Messiah beyond all doubt, for had he not triumphed over death itself? Thus Peter learned to trace God's hand in the dark and depressing past.

Leaders cannot accomplish their work unless, like Jesus, they "consecrate themselves" for the sake of others. This applies to our political leaders, our leaders in Sunday School, Y.M.C.A., boys' and girls' clubs, etc. It is good to remember that so many of the army and navy leaders, and statesmen in the Great War were men of prayer and faith.

Then, too, the early church moved onward because the little band of Christians felt the stirrings of new life in their hearts. Canada was devoted to the arts of peace before August, 1914. Gradually a new passion to help the cause of freedom took possession of her heart. The secret of every forward movement is the new spirit, the new outlook and courage and faith. "Men fight with their hearts," said Foch.

In our great day of opportunity, it is necessary for us to have the Pentecostal heart,—a much needed call to repentance. On the day that he signed the Peace Treaty, General Smuts spoke as follows,—"A new heart must be given, not only to our enemies, but also to us—a spirit of pity, mercy, and forgiveness for the sins and wrongs which we have suffered . . . and this new spirit among the peoples will be the solvent for problems which statesmen have found too hard at the Conference." These are weighty words. Jeremiah uttered similar words when his nation faced the new era. Jesus makes the same high demand. We shall advance as a Christian people, only as a new love for Christ and our fellow creatures comes into our hearts.

4. *Compare the test of membership in the primitive and in the modern church.* The early Christians flamed with a new zeal, a fresh understanding of Jesus, but there is one point where our path diverges from

theirs. They believed that Christ was to return very quickly, and the disciples would enter the new kingdom with joy. Most Christians now feel that God is asking us to help him in his gigantic task of changing human nature and stamping it with his own spirit and image. So we are not merely to adopt the expectant and waiting attitude of the first disciples; rather we are to save society now. The test is not an intellectual one; it is not the outward assent to the doctrine of Christ's Messiahship, or the passive expectation of the "millennial dawn;" it is the personal loyalty to Jesus Christ, and the judgment of our family life, business arrangements and church programmes by his spirit.

5. *Observe the place of preaching.* Peter's sermon was direct, personal, effective. Men's consciences were cut to the quick; their souls were touched; their wills were challenged. Nothing can supplant the human voice as an agency for human redemption. The printed page is cold and leaden in comparison. The necessary qualification of the great preacher is, that he should have, like Peter, an overwhelming religious conviction, one that he feels it is of the utmost importance should be pressed home on the hearts of his hearers. In nearly every great forward movement, preaching has been a large factor. For example, recall the Reformation; the Evangelical Revival in England under the preaching of Wesley; the New England upheaval under the Puritan preachers. To-day men listen to preaching that stirs and reaches the consciences.

6. *What now is the permanent value of Pentecost?* Its value is to be found not in the ecstatic utterances of the believers, not in the outward peculiarities such as the rushing mighty wind, the tongues of fire, etc., but rather in the turning of the hearts of the people to God under the spiritual and intensely earnest preaching of the apostle. The human heart in that far off day was responsive to the call of the true preacher. The divine Spirit entered and made them "new men." So, as we cooperate with God, his presence floods our being and we rejoice in the knowledge that we are his fellow workers.