

(1). "The Peril of the Penny and a Prayer Program."

Intro: (1). "Dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping, Hear the pennies fall. Every one for Jesus, He shall have them ALL." Remember that Sun. School song? In those bygone days pennies meant something..sac. of popsickles..gum.. allday sucker. But today? Only pennies for Jesus? 1% of our dollars? OH NO! Open up the wallets..dig into the purses..Better:- get out the cheque books..But a row of figures down after the dollar sign...Get signature in place..so that money be released from those money jails called banks..Make the cheque payable to a missionary, for his support..or for some project on a mission field..or to Berean Bible College so that more recruits can be prepared. DOLLARS WILL DO IT! That's the way to start a missionary Conference!

(2). NO IT ISN'T. Dollars won't do it. Peter knew that when he (A PREACHER!) refused to accept the offering. Acts 8:18 "Simon..offered..them money." And Peter said:- "Thy money perish with thee..for thy heart is not right in the sight of God." Sometimes money is IMPOTENT and unacceptable to God. Keep it. Bank it. Hoard it..and then leave it behind one dismal day..and go to give account. "But isn't money important?" YES. Every Christian..EVERY X'N should tithe his income. Tithing is giving God a tenth of what you have. Some bold X'ns may even go beyond that and make a FAITH PROMISE. That means giving to God what you haven't got, and then praying it in. BUT DON'T BE ASTONISHED IF THAT MONEY DOESN'T ACCOMPLISH THAT FOR WHICH IT WAS GIVEN..OR BE SURPRISED IF GOD TURNS DOWN YOUR WONDER SACRIFICE! He did that to Cain. And to King Saul..I Sam. 15:22 "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" To Israel God said thru. Isaiah Isa.1:11 "I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats."

I Well...If dollars won't do it..what will? Shall I quit (a) giving? NO. Give till it hurts. Then give till it quite hurting. Tithe is mentioned 40 times in Bible..8 of those in N.T.²⁰ God means what He says. "Then what else must I do?" Well..here's an important Scrip..II Cor. 10:4 "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Ah, that's it! PRAYER WILL DO IT! That's what this Conf. shd be all about! Turn it into a huge prayer meeting! Send the singers home! Give the speakers laryngitis germs! Shut off the film projector! PRAY! THAT WILL DO IT!

(b). NO..PRAYER WILL NOT DO IT. And all of us ought to know why. It's really very simple. Prayers are NOT always answered. NO? Poets like Helen Steiner Rice sweetly assure us that God always answers...either by saying YES or NO or sending a substitute answer...or "LATER." Very comfortable explan..when prayer not ans'd to smile brightly and say "God said No." Our wobbly faith saved from confusion, conscience lies undisturbed. A.W.Tozer says of this philos.."It would be hard to invent a neater TRICK than this to save face for the petitioner whose requests have been REJECTED FOR NOBEDIENCE..God has not placed Himself under obligation to honour the requests of worldly, carnal or disobedient Christians."

(c). So prayer is not always answered or effective.. Let's stay Scriptural! Ps.66:18 says it clearly enough.. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord WILL NOT HEAR ME." If you slip up on that one, try this: Isa. 59:1-2 "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: BUT your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he WILL NOT HEAR." God has taught this repeatedly..Just saying prayers will not do. Think of Joshua, after the triumph at Jericho... and how it was followed by defeat at little Ai... Josh 7. Began to pray..cry to God for victory..and God said..vs10-11 "GET THEE UP; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned." "Quit praying..until you are right with God." James sums it up like this: Jas.4:8.."Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" Then he added the essential conditions: "Cleanse your HANDS ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." We often hear about foot-washing..but here is hand-washing heart purifying, mindcleansing..and in chap. 3..tongue control....and then the prayer. PENNIES AND PRAYERS are essential..but something else is needed and we must seek it. What is it?

II. By this time..it ought to be evident to all of us.

(a). Let's not cry "GO YE" until we get this straight. A missionary Conf. is not the time to plunk down some money..mutter a "God bless the missionaries"..hurry home to catch latest TV program, quite satisfied that we have done our duty until next year..piously placid!

(b). I have often mentioned this...I have a Bible that was well used by Wm. Aberhart. Pasted inside front cover.. a printed sentence..."GET RIGHT WITH GOD." Not there for public to see..for HIM to see. Before opened to sermon text..⁹⁷prayed for God's power..his eye met THIS....

already sat
- Ben.

I want set this as keynote for this Miss. Conference.
Before our giving and our praying..we need a strong heart
right with God..in every way..Searched through and through
by Holy Spirit of God..every wrong thing spread out before
Him..confessed..forsaken..and cleansed under the blood..
Hands, Feet, Heart, Mind, Tongue...the whole man..whole li
(c). Remember again that story of Israel's defeat at Ai?
One man caused it..Achan. And his sin? He took a Babylon
garment..200 shekels of silver..wedge of gold 50 shekels
Any of us in the Achan class? Do I enjoy wearing a Babylon
garment occasionally..an outward appearance like world..
to COVER UP my X'nty? Am I caught up with selfish mater-
ialism..the GREED of this age? Or was it Achan's BASIC
sin..not obeying God? He was not RIGHT WITH GOD. Am I?
I repeat Tozer: "God has not obligated Himself to honour
the requests of worldly, carnal or disobedient Christians."

Conclus:- 1. Is it difficult to part with tithe? To add
the offering? To make a faith promise? Does it seem that
prayer often unanswered? DON'T EXCUSE IT. Ask God what's
wrong..and by His grace put it right. Do it. God help me
to do it. Pastors, Elders, leaders, followers..all of us.
The best thing I can do in a missionary conf. is TO DIE.
2. Then, when God gets us out of the way the dollars will
flow from a God-loving heart..Triumphant prayers rise
from a cleansed life..and the GO YE will begin to operate
..Not just in far lands..where we ask the younger men, women
to go..sacrificing life itself..but the GO YE is for all
of us.."beginning at Calgary." God give us the cleansed,
glowing heart by the fresh touch of His Holy Spirit.
Ask Him. WE NEED HIM..FIRST OF ALL. (X)

3. On my mother's birthday..the year that I was born..¹⁹⁰⁶
my father gave her a Methodist hymn book. One of those
hymns begins with this prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly
Dove, with all Thy quickening powers; kindle a flame of
sacred love in these cold hearts of ours."
BEGIN HERE...and all the rest will certainly follow on.

"Get right with God" - PRAY.

(X) The key to a successful missionary conf. is a contrite
heart..ashamed of itself..but glowing for God.

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