

## **I'm Never Going Back**

When I looked into Rev. White's eyes tonight in his office, I saw the look that I had seen many times before in men who really love God. It was that look of deep concern that men of God have when they are worried about God's will. Before this revival began, Rev. White was deeply concerned, deeply worried, that our expected turn-out would not be realized. When I saw that look in his eye, I felt the love of God fill my soul, because God is truly alive when people worry about Him. When I see the look of a religious man of such depth and sincerity, I feel an overwhelming feeling in my heart: I am never going back. I'm never going back to the life that was not active in the work of God. When I see such a living concern for God's happiness I am overwhelmed with that feeling that I am never going back. (You can think of a comparable experience of your own to replace the "Rev. White" theme.)

Just as miracles broke the Israelites free from the Pharaoh's domination, so too do we find that miracles of different spiritual dimensions also initiate us in our life of faith, and in that initiation we feel tremendous strength and power as that feeling of commitment fills our soul. The Israelites surly held such commitment when they saw the Red Sea part before their eyes, and when the Pharaoh's men were pressing down upon their throats. Usually, religious experience I initiated in some kind of drama. But when the dramatic moment passes, and the smoke clears, where do we find ourselves? In the desert. It's in the desert that the commitment of the Israelites was turned to dust and their hearts started moving back towards Egypt. But the Bible was given to us so that, learning from history, we can pass across the Red Sea and meet the desert of our faith, recognizing it for what it is and not making the mistakes of the past.

In the desert time we begin to wonder what it was that we felt so strongly before and yet have so little feeling for now. It's in the desert that we must decide whether our love for God is true or not. True love is a love of a different dimension. True love is a love that is given even when you are not sure whether or not you are going to get it back. In the miracle time of our faith it is easy to love God, but when we hit the desert we feel betrayed by God. There is actually no betrayal at all, but only an opportunity for us to develop a true love for God. If parents only loved their children when the children were good, then the children would say there is no love at all. For true love to exist there must be a commitment of loyalty beyond response.

When we overcome the temptation to turn back to Egypt, when we can say I'm never going back, then a waterfall of God's love comes down and a beautiful garden full of fragrance

and gentle breezes surrounds us in that moment. When we make such a commitment, when we break our hearts away from the things of the past, and connect our hearts with a love for God's will, then through us God's will can be done.

I saw commitment tonight in Rev. White's eyes and I could see that, no matter what the outcome of this particular even, when God finds a man, even one man, with such commitment then any desert can be changed into a garden. When there is such a commitment of a man towards God, God can resonate with that heart and work miracles. Rev. White's sincerity tonight changed the destiny of this revival and I am sure it was such a concern for God that brought a full house. Once God began the path and process of salvation, God said in His heart, I'm never going back. God will never go back on His promise to us. If we become people how never go back on our promise to God then we will rise to the mountaintop and we will see the promised land. When we can become people that can say I'm never going back when it comes to a commitment of heart towards other people, then they too will be lifted up to the mountaintop and they will also see the promised land.

The time that we are in is the time of the second coming. Miracles will initiate the second advent and draw us to it. But it's only a commitment that I'm never going back that will pull us all the way through the desert into the land of Canaan. Though we will get lost and wander around many times while we are passing through the desert, as long as we keep our commitment never to go back then God will always work with us and our heavenly destination is guaranteed. Let us live boldly, as we stand with the courage to believe that we as a people can restore all failures of past people by once and for all making the eternal pledge that we are never going back to the old world, but, no matter what, we are going to stay with God until we reach the new world.