

## The Day of Small Things By Theodore L. Cuyler (1822-1909,

### Classic Christian Writings:

"Who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zech. 4:10). No wise Christian ever despises the day of small things, especially if he see the hand of God in them. Spiritual awakenings in a church very often have small beginnings; one or two persons who have become thoroughly aroused awaken others. Sometimes the spark of the holy fire is in a single godly heart that is inspired with the love of Jesus, and a solicitude for the salvation of souls.

The Christian dispensation began with a handful of earnest followers of the crucified Christ. They met in an obscure upper room in Jerusalem and "continued...in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14). What cared the great wicked city for that little "fanatical" circle of friends? But the fire kindled in that sacred chamber soon burst forth over the civilized world, and it is burning yet!

The seed of the Reformation flame was in Martin Luther's big brave heart.

### Warm Them up with Love for Jesus

It has never been my practice to invite the labors of an evangelist; but years ago, D. L. Moody (who had not yet become famous) said to the superintendent of our new Mission Chapel, "What a nice place this is to hold some meetings." He was cordially invited, and at the end of a week about twenty persons had been mustered together on the sharp winter evenings.

"This seems slow work," I said to him. "Very true," replied my sagacious brother, "it is slow, but if you want to kindle a fire, you collect a handful of sticks, light them with a match, and keep blowing until they blaze, then heap on the wood. So I am working here with a handful of Christians, endeavoring to warm them up with love for Jesus, and if they get well warmed, a general revival will come and sinners will be converted."

He was right. Sparks were kindled in prayer and the fire of revival burst into flame and many souls made public confession to Christ.

Everything depends upon going straight to "headquarters" — to God. Reliance upon any man, or any method, or any methods in themselves is a fatal mistake. Success depends on watching the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and in prompt cooperation with the Spirit. That Spirit works with the humblest private Christian, as truly as with the most eloquent preacher.

"He shall baptize you...with fire" (Luke 3:16). Grasp that precious promise and act on it. If there is a live coal in your heart, or even a glowing spark, carry it where it will kindle somebody else. False fires soon end in smoke; but a seed of the divine fire is sure to spread.