

Prayer Encouragement

Mark 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

"The church may be composed of those who are poor and uneducated; but **if they have learned of Christ the science of prayer, the church will have power to move the arm of Omnipotence.** The true people of God will have an influence that will tell upon hearts. **It is not the wealth or the educated ability which the members of the church may possess that constitutes their efficiency.** The members of the church may have been so situated that they may have had every spiritual advantage, they may have been so situated that they have had opportunity to know the truth, to know Jesus Christ their Lord; but **notwithstanding their advantages, if they are not humble, praying men and women, there will not be with them the hiding of the power of God.** They will not exert that influence that will be far reaching as eternity in its results, and men will not see their good works, and glorify God because of his people's faithfulness. **It is when the Sun of Righteousness shines forth from the people of God that Christ is glorified and his kingdom advanced. It is then that they are chosen vessels of salvation, and are fit for the Master's use.**" –Signs of the Times, September 11, 1893. Par. 4

Let every one who gives of his means, also send up his prayers daily that it may bring souls to the foot of the cross. And in every church, once a week at least, let there be a season set apart for praying for this work. Let all be united, not mingling in their petitions other wants, such as blessings for the sick and needy, but having a specific object for their faith and entreaties. Brethren, move high heaven by your prayers for God to work with the efforts of his servants. The Lord has agencies which he will put in operation in answer to the importunate prayers of faith. He will fulfill his word, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." {RH October 12, 1886, par. 14}

"**We must have the spirit of supplication to God. The enemy holds many of you from prayer, by telling you that you do not feel your prayers, and that you would better wait until you realize more of the spirit of intercession, lest your prayers should be a mockery. But you must say to Satan, "It is written" that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint."** We should pray until we do have the burden of our wants upon our souls; and if we persevere, we shall have it. The Lord will imbue us with his Holy Spirit. The Lord knows, and the Devil knows, that we cannot resist the temptations of Satan without power from on high. For this reason the evil one seeks to hinder us from laying hold upon Him who is mighty to save. **Our Lord made it our duty, as well as our privilege, to connect our weakness, our ignorance, our need, with his strength, his wisdom, his righteousness. He unites his infinite power with the effort of finite beings, that they may be more than victors in the battle with the enemy of their souls.**" { RH October 30, 1888, par. 15 }

The Holy Spirit Will Be Given

"It is not because of any restriction on God's part that the riches of His grace do not flow to men. His gift is Godlike. He gave with a liberality that men do not appreciate because they do not love to receive. **If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit.** By resting content with small blessings, we disqualify ourselves for receiving the Spirit in its unlimited fullness. We are too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep moving of the Spirit of God. **Expecting little, we receive little. . . . When the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost, it was like a rushing, mighty wind. It was given in no stinted measure; for it filled all the place where the disciples were sitting. So will it be given to us when our hearts are prepared to receive it.**"—Review and Herald, June 10, 1902.

Witnessing Suggestions and Encouragement

"The true believer has a right to expect that sinners will be converted as the result of his labors, because he is one with those who believe in Christ; because he represents Christ in character. God will hear the prayers that are offered in faith. The church must come into her appointed place and by faith and true works prepare to sow the seeds of truth in every field where God's messengers shall find an entrance." {Lt160-1903.5}

The Saviour would not have His message of a full and free salvation made intricate by words of human learning. His lessons are full of simple illustrations. All are invited to come. It is the very simplicity of salvation through Christ that is its attraction. The persuasiveness of Christ must be seen in our hearts and in our words. {Ms138-1897.24}

Direct application must be made. And ever the speaker must remember that he is only the instrument. It is the Holy Spirit that impresses the hearts of high and low, the most dignified and the most hopelessly abandoned. **The Word must be spoken in simplicity. Men must be addressed as sinners in peril of losing their souls. All distinctions must be overlooked, for all need the same truth.** All need a crucified and risen Saviour, who died that they might be saved. {Ms138-1897.25}

A soul saved in your own family circle or in your own neighborhood, by your patient, painstaking labor, will bring as much honor to the name of Christ, and will shine as brightly in your crown as if you had found that soul in China or India. { ST November 10, 1881, par. 6 }

"The most powerful evidence that a man can give that he has been born again and is a new man in Christ Jesus, is the manifestation of love for his brethren, the doing for them of Christlike deeds. This is the most powerful witness that can be borne in favor of Christianity, and will win souls to the truth." {KC 110.4}

God is angry with those who pursue a course to make the world hate them. If a Christian is hated because of his good works and for following Christ, he will have a reward; but **if he is hated because he does not take a course to be loved, hated because of his uncultivated manners and because he makes the truth a matter of quarrel with his neighbors, and takes a course to make the Sabbath as annoying as possible to them, he is a stumbling block to**

sinner, a reproach to the sacred truth, and unless he repents it were better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck and he were cast into the sea. { 1T 420.1}

No occasion should be given to unbelievers to reproach our faith. We are considered odd and singular, and should not take a course to lead unbelievers to think us more so than our faith requires us to be. { 1T 420.2}

Of ourselves we can do nothing. Without the Spirit of God we are utterly helpless. **Our strength lies in hiding in Jesus. God can do more in one moment to convict people than we can do in a lifetime.** Therefore let us hold fast to the arm of Omnipotence. Let us lean upon Jesus. Thus we shall grow strong to do His will. The Lord is our helper. He will not leave or forsake us. { ST November 7, 1900, par. 11 }

When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern; angels will do a work which men might have had the blessing of accomplishing, had they not neglected to answer the claims of God.—R. & H., Dec. 15, 1885.

Now when you are in those controversies with unbelievers, **don't go over their ground and repeat the very words that they say. Go right on and advance another point of truth, and another point of truth. Don't stop, don't give your time, don't give your speech to even repeat the words that they repeat.** The angels of God are watching every one of these controversies, and they don't want you to be in a position to lose your faith. It is worth something to us to gain victories in the name of Him who our heavenly Father donated to the world. He gave His only begotten Son. For it says, that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." And how He suffered you know just how, if you have studied your Bibles. {Ms115-1909.33}

Christians **indeed are opposed to display. In proportion as they are Christians they are clothed with humility,** and this very grace makes them a light in contrast with darkness. If we are Christians **we will not seek to be praised or exalted of men, and we will not be drawn away from the work by bribes or any flattering inducement.** Christians will not be driven from their post of duty by fear or by reproach, by accusation, hatred, or persecution. {Ms40-1890}

Jesus says, "Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." There are some who will observe the example and feel the influence of a consistent Christian life. Jesus **does not bid the Christian to strive to shine, but just to let his light shine in clear and distinct rays to the world. Do not blanket your light. Do not sinfully withhold your light. Do not let the mist and fog and malaria of the world put out your light. Do not hide it under a bed or under a bushel, but set it on a candlestick, that it may give light to all that are in the house.** Neither take pains to exalt yourself to shine nor go into the cave as did Elijah in his discouragement, but come out, stand with God and shine. God bids you shine, penetrating the moral darkness of the world. Be the salt, the savor of men. {Ms40-1890}

We hope and pray that your efforts may be highly successful. **Do not forget that pulpit labor must be followed by private effort.** Brother Loughborough ought not to bend his mind to much

writing now, while this effort is being made. The **greatest success attends those who come in as close relation as possible with those with whom they labor, gain their sympathy and confidence, visit in their homes those who appear interested, and pray with them and for them.** In this way only will the direction be followed to go out in the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in. {Lt55-1874.6}

It is this fireside effort, this home work, that is attended with signal success. Try it, brethren in the ministry. Some of our ministers do not love this kind of labor. They shun it. There is a cross attached to such personal efforts, but this is the labor the people must have if they embrace unpopular truth. In this close contact with souls who are in darkness, our light may shine more effectually, directly upon the darkness, and **they will see by our deportment, our conversation, our solemn yet cheerful, courteous manners, that the grace of God is with us, and that the peace of heaven is brought into their homes. They will be charmed with the truth which is attended with such blessed results.** {Lt55-1874.7}

In many churches in California the **members have heard discourse after discourse, and yet they do not seem to have a large measure of the Holy Spirit.** While I was in Australia, many of them sent letters to me across the broad Pacific, **inquiring why they did not receive more power from above, and requesting me to pray for them. They did not seem to comprehend the reality of the Saviour's promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." They did not seem to realize that they could gain spiritual strength by imparting to their neighbors and friends the light they had received.** They had not learned of the blessing that comes to us from telling our fellow beings enslaved by appetite, **of that divine power which will enable them to overcome the desire for every harmful indulgence.** – {RH November 11, 1902 Par. 10}

Let those who teach the truth, teach in simplicity. Let them not try to drive the truth home with a vim that will arouse antagonism. **Let the voice express sympathy and tenderness.** Christ's voice was full of pathos. **By persevering effort we can cultivate the voice, ridding it of all harshness. Let us ask in faith for a converted voice, a converted tongue, and for Christlike sympathy and tenderness, that we may win souls to the truth we teach.** – {RH November 11, 1902 Par. 11}

In many cities, as of old, Jesus is waiting to carry forward His work of dispelling darkness by the light of truth. But His own professed followers stand in the way. Their unbelief and numerous plans and projects of their own hold back the arm of infinite power. If they would humble their own proud hearts, and submit their wills and ways to the will of God, they would see sinners converted and the believing strengthened by a more correct knowledge of the whole truth. {Lt2a-1878}

It is **not money alone, nor talent, nor learning, nor opportunities, which the church needs so much as simple, earnest, confiding faith. Possessing this, and working in faith and love wherever they can find anything to do, the followers of Christ may fulfil His great commission to speed the gospel to all nations.** Neither the arguments of most able men who are wise in this world, the opposition of the skeptic, the bold revilings of the scoffer, nor the cold, carnal security of the world will be able to stand before the truth presented in meekness and in the power of Christ. **The toil and sacrifice of a united, consecrated church, laboring in faith and love, will advance the truth and have a transforming power upon the world.** {Lt2a-1878}

Let your light shine in your home and in your neighborhood. If the families around you are opposed to the truth, strive to lead them to yield to the claims of Christ. Work wisely, patiently and considerately, winning your way by the tender ministry of love. Thus the walls of prejudice will be broken down. Present the truth in such a way that it will be seen in all its beauty, exerting an influence that cannot be resisted. {Ms5-1902.38}

If this work were faithfully done, if fathers and mothers would work for the members of their own families, and then with the help of their children for those around them, uplifting Christ by a godly life, thousands of souls would be saved. When God's people are truly converted, when they realize the obligation resting on them to work for those within their reach, **when they leave no means untried to rescue sinners from the power of the enemy, in their very neighborhoods the reproach will be removed from our churches.** {Ms5-1902.39}

Encourage As Much As Possible

SpM 144.2

We live in a hard, unfeeling, uncharitable world. Satan and his confederacy are plying every art to seduce the souls for whom Christ has given his precious life. Every one who loves God in sincerity and truth, will love the souls for whom Christ has died. **If we wish to do good to souls, our success with these souls will be in proportion to their belief in our confidence in them and appreciation of them.** Respect shown to the struggling human soul is the sure means through Christ Jesus of the restoration of the self-respect the man has lost. Our advancing ideas of what he may become is a help we can not ourselves fully appreciate. We have need of the rich grace of God every hour, then we will have a rich, practical experience, for God is love. He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God. Give love to them that need it most. **The most unfortunate, those who have the most disagreeable temperaments, need our love, our tenderness, our compassion. Those who try our patience need most love.** We pass through the world only once; any good thing we can do, we should do most earnestly, untiringly, with the same spirit as is stated of Christ in his work. He will not fail nor be discouraged. **The rough, stubborn, sullen dispositions are the ones who need help the most. How can they be helped? Only by that love practiced in dealing with them which Christ revealed to fallen men. Treat them, you say, as they deserve? What if Christ had treated us thus?** He, the undeserving, was treated as we deserve. Still we are treated by Christ with grace and love as we did not deserve, but as he deserved. **Treat some characters as you think they richly deserve, and you will cut off from them the last thread of hope, spoil your influence, and ruin the soul. Will it pay? No, I say no, a hundred times no.** Bind these souls who need all the help it is possible for you to give them close to a loving, sympathizing, pitying heart, overflowing with Christ-like love, and you will save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins. **Had we not better try the love process?** { SpM 144.2 }

"Do not be afraid to let them know that you love them. If the love is in the heart, give it expression, do not smother it. When they gather about the table to partake of God's precious bounties, make this a season of cheerfulness. Do not make it a season of grave decorum as though they were standing about a coffin, but have it a social season where every countenance is full of joy and happiness, where naught but cheerful words are spoken. And **the**

youth should not feel that they are under an eye that is watching them, ready to reprove and condemn. Approve whenever you can; smile whenever you can; do not arrange your countenance as though a smile would bring the condemnation of heaven. Heaven is all smiles and gladness and gratitude. I wish we all knew more about heaven and would bring its pure, healthful, holy, influence into our lives, for then we would bring sweet joy into many a life that needs it. {Lt19-1886.20}

This resource was developed in conjunction with the Woman at the Well sermon given in South Haven, MI in September of 2017. Find more resources like this at discipleheart.com