

ter; had been talking with Jesus; had been listening to Jesus; had been learning of Jesus; had been watching Jesus, with whom they now knew to be indeed "the Christ, the Son of the living God." Is it any wonder that under the influence of such divine contact they were mighty in prayer? They felt their kinship with heaven, and could not help but pray "in faith, be-

lieving." For a little time before the Teacher came from God had said to them, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you;" and again, "I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth." They had his sure word of promise, they were therefore certain of its fulfilment, they were therefore "instant in prayer."

Follow Christians of to-day, those words of our Master are just as truly for us. Shall we not take him at his word, and believe that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for us too. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Shall we of this century be more distrustful and unbelieving than those of so many years ago?

Our past history and present standing witnesseth that until the Master's followers get down at his feet with contrite hearts and with faith and humility await the blessing which will come, his church disregards its greatest need, retards its own progress, and hides under the bushel of custom, selfishness and pride what should be set on a hill enlightening the world! How shall the Christian church cope with its gigantic problems, stupendous difficulties, internal and external? Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

It is simply true that this power is ours for the asking. "The powers of the eternal world are at the disposal of those who pray," says Andrew Murray. Ten-nyson demands:

"For what are men better than sheep or goats,
That nourish a blind life within the brain;
If, knowing God, they lift not holy hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those that call them friend."

The Book tells us, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss,"—amiss in that we do not truly want what we ask for, and God knows that. When we pray, "Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us, endue us with power from on high," would we really want that prayer answered if it meant to us the giving up of some of our selfish plans and love of applause, and instead the "speaking with tongues," the life set apart, perhaps the preaching and teaching at home or abroad? When we are willing to say from our hearts, "I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord, I'll be what you want me to be," what a life of Christian power and far-reaching influence is yours! Then shall you know in joyous reality the meaning of this—"If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

This is the solution of the prayer-meeting question, and of all the problems concerning the growth and advancement of the church. We have the Master's word for it. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Do not be discouraged if you feel yourself to be alone, or nearly so, in your community, church, or society, in your desire for this "Spirit-filled life,"

but go home and pray, and trust God, who will richly fulfil to you his word, who will use you to his glory. Ways and means, you say? "He will reveal even this unto you." Is it not a precious thought?

In planting a grape vine the gardener's care is not which way the leaves shall arrange themselves, or where the clusters shall be found. He knows that if his vine can but have life, abundant life, these things will take care of themselves; and the richer the life, the deeper the roots, the more nearer the sunshine, the more beautiful and graceful shall the branches become, the more luscious and abundant the harvest.

Life, life, this is what we want. Hark! the voice of Jesus, "I am come, that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly."

Any substitute we put in its place is a pitiful sham, and will not attract those who need help.

Let our P. M. Committees prepare for beautiful music, for variety in the programmes occasionally; let them make much of the special topics of education, temperance and missions; let them use the ministry of flowers; let them meet often for conference and prayer. But what tired, discouraged, burdened souls want to find when they come to us in our meetings is not so much food for their minds, or entertainment, but to be led to that mercy-seat whence all blessings flow—to the arms of him, who, in his infinite love, said, "Come unto me."

Prayer-meeting Committees, here is your solution of all the problems. Abiding in Christ, which brings you the gift of the Holy Spirit, continuing instant in prayer—in prayer

"For so the whole, round earth is every way

Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

Finally, what saith the Scripture? "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened, and a book of remembrance was written; and they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."

Extravagance Precedes Dishonesty.

Our neighbor who keeps a livery stable was coming to town with us the other morning, and on the cars he happened to mention the name of a young man who had recently been before the courts for misuse of trust funds. He said the report in the papers was not a surprise to him because his occupation brought him into touch with young men in the beginning of their downward career. "My trade is perfectly legitimate," he added, "but a horse is a luxury, in the city an expensive luxury, and the young fellows who go to the bad do not begin with the bad. They begin with indulgences that they cannot afford; and then to extricate themselves from inevitable embarrassment, they resort to criminal practices. In every case that I have personally known," he continued, "extravagance precedes dishonesty. The legitimate debt usually leads, in the case of the man on a salary, to the 'debt of honor.' I have," he added, "saved more than one young man from a trip to Mexico by bringing the spendthrift to book before he became a prodigal. The man who cannot deny himself indulgences will finally purchase them at the expense of his integrity. The man who is first careless of his debts is then careless of his habits."—*The Interior.*

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WOMANLY VIRTUES.—"To be womanly?" repeated Laura. "Why, I don't know, honey. It's to be kind and well-bred and gentle mostly, and never to be bold or conspicuous; and to love one's home and take care of it, and to love and believe in one's husband—or parents, or children, or even one's sister—above any one else in the world.—*From Norris' "The Pit."*

Thinner than a Rail.

Spending every day as much energy as you can make, and if the balance goes a little further, well, you get thinner. Not wise to go that way longer. Better use Ferrozone, you will digest more—a little gain the first week, but the gain keeps growing. Not quite so thin! Keep right on, only don't use Ferrozone too long or you will get too fat. Then your blood will be rich, your heart strong, you won't puff so much, you won't get tired quickly. Fat, blood, strength, you have them all with Ferrozone. Sold by all druggists.

If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, this man's religion is vain. Jas. 1:26.

Only holy lives can win the unholy to holiness and heavenliness. The hands that are given to Christ must not do sinful things after engaging in his holy work. The lips that speak his name must not speak wrong words. The feet that run his errands to-day must not walk in the paths of evil to-morrow. The heart that throbs with love at his table must not afterward be thrilled with feelings of passion and hate. If we would've vessels meet for the Master's use, we must have clean hands and pure hearts.—*J. R. Miller, D. D.*

Its Power Grows with Age.—How many medicines loudly blazoned as panaceas for all human ills have come and gone since Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil was first put upon the market? Yet it remains, doing more good to humanity than many a preparation more highly vaunted and extending its virtues wider and wider and in a larger circle every year. It is the medicine of the masses.

It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can.—*Sydney Smith.*

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