

AN INTERESTING PRAYER MEETING.

How shall we make our prayer meetings more interesting and attractive? is an oft-repeated inquiry. A few suggestions may assist in answering this question.

I. Go from a place of prayer to the place of prayer. Invoke God's blessing upon the approaching meeting. Visit the place "where prayer is wont to be made," in the spirit of humble, earnest supplication. Expect to meet your Saviour there.

II. Go to the prayer-meeting as a contributor. Carry your offerings with you. Be a *doer* as well as a hearer of the word. Bring gifts. Think sometimes of this: What would the prayer-meeting be if every one did just as I do? Count prayer-meeting service a *privilege* instead of a duty. Let your Lord's vineyard bear the marks of your diligence. Act as a reflector there, and not a mere absorbent. Do not ask your pastor and one or two elders to "carry on" the prayer-meeting, and then complain of a lack of interest. You have a work there as well as they. Remember, the prayer-meeting will be what you make it, and if you sit inactive, silent and unconcerned, you will do what you can to make it uninteresting. Thus you will help very materially, to answer the question that stands at the head of this article.

III. Be punctual at the hour set apart for the meeting. Punctuality is a virtue. In this little thing show interest. Be sure that the singing is earnest, animated, appropriate and hearty. Observe the time. Make melody. "Sing with the spirit." There is wonderful power in music. Do not kill the meeting with drawling, dismal minor-keyed dirges. "Windham" is good; but a prayer-meeting is not a funeral. Good singing has very much to do with the interest of the prayer-meeting, and so emphatically has poor singing. Murdered music murders prayer-meetings. What a ghostly array of murdered meetings rise to view!

IV. In prayer and speaking, observe religiously these three things, viz.: *point*, *brevity*, and *earnestness*. Do not scatter. Catch the keynote of the meeting, and hold on to it. Follow out the line of thought presented by the leader. Make a point. Be brief. Avoid prolixity. Shun details. Do not glory in the grace of continuance. Blessed is the man that does not "*enlarge*." Shun the rock of amplification. For the Master's sake be brief and pointed. And be *earnest*. Leave the impression that you mean what you say, and that you feel the importance of your theme. Suffer not a dry theme to come in dreary, mournful accents from cold lips and a colder heart. "Dying of respectability" is a sad comment. Dying of a pointlessness, tediousness and lukewarmness, is no better.

Seek God's Spirit. Work—be prompt; sing with spirit and animation. Be brief, pointed and earnest. Lay your hands altogether to the plow and look not back, and see if the question asked at the outset is not satisfactorily answered.—*Exchange*.

Masters who write copies must write as perfectly as possible. Any defects will be increased by the scholar. So Christians, who are to make their lives copies to others, must live as holy as possible.