

activity. They will take such converts by the hand, and say to each, "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good; for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel." When this spirit prevails, such Churches will be anxious to know how they may become useful, and how they may encourage their ministers, by letting them see that they also are concerned for the glory of God, and the enlargement of his Church. To such, the following hints are submitted :—

HINTS AS TO PERSONAL PIETY.

True religion lies at the foundation of all usefulness. Really regenerate characters are the only persons who will aim at the conversion of sinners, and at promoting the glory of Christ. Cultivate, then, a devotional spirit. Read the word of God prayerfully. Attend Sabbath-day and week-day services diligently and devotionally. Rest continually upon the atonement of Christ.

HINTS AS TO SEEKING DIVINE INFLUENCE.

Think much of its great importance. Get a thorough acquaintance with those portions of the word of God which refer to this valuable favour. Frequently plead in earnest devotion the promises which name this blessing. Desire that your dearest connexions, the pastor, the teachers, the schools, the church, and the congregation, may be largely "baptized with the Spirit." Look for answers to your prayers. Pray for this influence to rest upon particular persons. Mention them by name to God at his "throne of grace" in the retirement of the closet.

HINTS AS TO SOCIAL PRAYER MEETINGS.

It is taken for granted that you have such meetings, in addition to the weekly one at which the pastor presides. If not, establish them immediately. These are the best indications of a Church's prosperity. Be short in your devotions. Never exceed five or eight minutes. Long preaching-prayers are the bane of our prayer meetings. Be fervent. Imbibe the spirit which will lead you each to say to God, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Keep up the practise of having some weighty topic to remember in prayer. Let one pray for the young, another for the church, another for the congregation, another for unconverted relatives, another for a blessing on the preached word, and all for the pastor. Never let your meeting exceed one hour. You will do much in that time, if you employ it well. Do not spend too much of the hour in singing hymns. One or two verses will be sufficient. Psalms of six or seven verses, with a tedious drawling tune, have a tendency to lead the persons present to say, "Behold what a weariness it is!"

HINTS AS TO YOUR DUTIES AS MEMBERS

Study to be united. A divided and a quarrelsome people cannot be a prosperous people. "Union is strength." Cultivate this more and more. Strive to promote peace. Avoid tattling, tale-bearing, and evil-speaking. All this is very much condemned by the word of God. Cherish a sacred, Christian, and constant affection for your fellow-members. Look over little offences which may have been given. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Be regular and uniform in your visits at the appointed means of grace. Remember it is said, "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee." "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God."

HINTS AS TO USEFULNESS.

You may be useful by continuing to distribute tracts, and by speaking a few words when you present them. By trying, in a kind way, to persuade fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and other relatives, to attend with you at the same place of worship. By inviting those acquaintances and neighbours, who never visit the temple of God, to accompany you on the Lord's-day; by noticing strangers who come to the chapel, and especially those who seem serious, attentive, and frequent in their attendance; by walking consistently, example always tells more powerfully than precept: by letting the pastor know of any instances of good which may have been effected, and by forwarding as much as possible his general and special labours; by being very punctual and diligent as Sabbath School Teachers; by visiting the sick, the afflicted, and the bereaved—Jesus visited the sick mother-in-law of Peter, and wept at the grave of Lazarus, Matt. viii. 14, John xi. 35. He says, "I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you;" by perseverance—do not faint and become weary, if you do not see all the success you could desire. God will smile, and you shall thankfully acknowledge his grace. "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not vain in the Lord." Let all your efforts be followed by humble, constant, and believing prayer. "Pray without ceasing." J. K.

LOOK UNTO CHRIST.

I was once wont to meditate most on my own heart, and to dwell all at home, and look little higher; I was still poring either on my sins or wants, or examining my