

Jesus say, "It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer"? Should we not expect, therefore, the delight of public worship to be more largely devotional? Over the whole service the prayers should cast a spell, bringing all minds into a reverent and devout mood, where they yield themselves to God and hunger for blessing. Prayer prepares the soil of the soul for the seed of the Word. Thus was it that the Saviour pronounced, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled," and it is prayer more than anything else that quickens the soul into stronger desire. An audience lifted, warmed, quickened, is brought within easy reach of influence,—a prepared people ready for prepared truth.

Nor has all been said. The influence of prayer upon the preacher himself is of primary importance. It is essential to the exercise of his prophetic office that the Gospel minister be strong in God, and in the power of His might; in other words, a man of prayer, acquainted with the heights and depths of the subject and empowered by its exercise. How can he be more than himself except as he is God-impelled? Giants there have always been, but never was there a great religious leader, from Abraham, the father of the faithful, to the living leaders of our own day, but was conspicuous for prayer. Never went forth a warrior at his own charges or a prophet in his own strength. All Spirit-filled men have come