

The marvellous activity of the Apostolic age was due to the fact that many of the disciples gave themselves up to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Before the disciples were invested with divine power for witnessing they had waited on God. It took ten days' praying to melt away the icebergs of coldness and to remove the mountains of unbelief from their hearts. Mighty was the change wrought upon the disciples. Peter who a few days ago, frightened by a maid, denied his Master, became at once as courageous and strong as a lion. Filled with unwonted power, he speaks with great boldness, directness and simplicity. Three thousand hardened sinners are convicted and converted. It is the Spirit's work. But let us not forget that before this great work could be done God's own children had first to be prepared. This was His method in carrying on His work in the first century, it is His method still. Physicians tell us that hurried eating is productive of injury to the health of the body. In like manner the soul of many a Christian can trace its chronic dyspepsia to nothing else than to hurried meditation and prayer.

III. *Obey His voice.*—Jesus lived a life of absolute obedience to the will of God. He had a will of His own, but He gave His will to the Father; "I came down from heaven not to do mine own will but the will of Him that sent me." He counted it His joy to do the Father's will—"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me." It cost Him much to do the Father's will. It meant Gethsemane and Calvary. Jesus died rather than do His own will. He could not have revealed the character of the Father had He chosen to do His own will. By His life He shewed us how to live, and by His death and resurrection He obtained for us the power to enable us to do His will rather than our own. Jesus abode in the Father's love because He kept His Father's commandments, and He assured His followers that they could abide in His love only as they yielded obedience to His commandments. To be conformed to Christ in life and character the believer, too, must be willing to count the cost and choose to do Christ's will rather than his own. This is the secret of a strong, aggressive and progressive Christian life. "To obey is better than sacrifice."

IV. *Have faith in God.*—Jesus lived a life of absolute de-