

swear, lie, get drunk, but because they believe not on Him. I believe that is the besetting sin. That is the root of all sin. The misery that came into this world through Adam and Eve, came because of their unbelief. They doubted God's word, they fell, they stumbled right there. It is the great sin of the world to-day, that people do not believe. It is what is going to keep them out of the world to come. There shall not be a murderer, a drunkard, or a harlot in the kingdom of heaven; but there would not be such here except for unbelief. It is their unbelief that leads them into sin. That is the reason why many do not like preaching where the Holy Spirit accompanies the word; they like to get into a church where the Holy Spirit does not work. When the Holy Spirit is at work men begin to be troubled; that means work and effort. I have had men get up while I have been preaching and go out in a great state of excitement, stamping down the aisle and slamming the doors after them. I don't mind that. It is a good sign. I would rather have them do that under my preaching, than have them just nod assent to everything I say, sit down to go quietly to sleep, and then just go on the same as they had done for twenty years. A woman persuaded her husband to come to my meetings in Philadelphia. He went out of the meeting angry and would not speak to her. At home he would not speak to her; went to bed and would not say a word. She got up in the morning and got him his breakfast, and he went away without speaking to her at all. He kept that up for about a week. It took him longer to cool off than it does some. Then he said to his wife, "Why did you go and tell him all about me?" "I did not tell him anything about you." "Well, you wrote." "No." "Well, you told somebody to go and tell him." "No," she said, "I never let Mr. Moody know about you in any way." "Well," he said, "I am real sorry I have treated you so badly. I thought he was talking about me, and was holding me up before ten thousand people." I tell you it is a good sign when a man thinks the preacher is after him. The Holy Ghost must work to convince the world of sin. You might fill this building with men who would like to become Christians, and Gabriel might come down and preach with power, with every hair of his head lit up with light from the heavenly world, and there would not be one man convinced of sin if the Holy Spirit did not work. I have often said I would rather sweep crossings, saw wood, blacken boots, than preach, if I had to convince men of sin. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. What we need is to recognize that and to look to Him to do His work. If the Spirit convinces men, there will be no shame about it. After He has convinced a man of sin the next thing is to impart love. "The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." Tell an unrenowned man to love his enemies. You might as well tell him to jump over the Atlantic Ocean. The natural man has not the power to love his enemies. Love must be spontaneous. A man can not make himself love. You might as well tell a colored man to change his complexion. But when the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts we become changed. It is easy to love then. Why? Because we have the love of God, and that is different from human love. It is God in us. Some one has said, you may take the nine graces and put them into one word, love. Joy is love exalted, peace is love in repose, longsuffering is love under trial, gentleness is love in society, faith is love on the battle-field, goodness is love in action, meekness is love in school, and temperance love in oneself. If you want to put your prayers shortly, pray that you may be

filled with love, and if your prayer is answered you will have the whole Christian life. Next, the Holy Ghost fills us with hope. You cannot find a church in Christendom where the people are being saved by the church. People are hopeful. You will find them stopping after the meeting and saying, "What a grand meeting we had, how God is blessing us!" I want to call attention to this fact: Many a man has toiled hard and got nothing, because he was not hopeful. God's servant is hopeful. A man who is full of faith is full of hope. You cannot find a place in the Bible where God used a discouraged man. Let a minister go into his pulpit without hope and the same feeling will get into the pews. It is very catching. If the pews have their harps hung on the willows, there will be nothing done. But let the minister be a hopeful man, and hopefulness will spread and get into the pews. A friend told me he has preached for years without hope. He used to go to his pulpit, saying to his wife sometimes, that he did not believe his preaching would do any good. He did not expect the people to receive his teaching, and they did not. Afterwards he awakened to the fact that he was guilty, he saw that he ought to preach expecting results. He began to work on a new plan, and when he did so, God began to bless him. Read the scriptures, and you will find that God's men in all ages have been men full of hope. In Paul's letter to the Romans, 15 chapter and 13th verse, the Holy Ghost is called the "God of Hope." A friend once told me that in Boston a man came to him, complaining because, as he thought, the church was going to pieces. He said to the stranger, "Do you believe the final result as predicted in the Bible? Do you believe Jesus Christ is going to set up His kingdom, and that His rule and sway shall extend even to the ends of the earth? Do you believe He will conquer at the end?" "Of course I do," the man replied. "Then why are you cast down; why don't you rejoice. Lift up your head, the time of our redemption draweth near. It is only a question of time. Let us be full of hope. When carrying on my Sabbath School work in Chicago, I once got cast down and very much depressed; I did not see the work prosper in my hands as it used to do. I was in my study on Monday morning brooding over the work of the past Sabbath, when a Bible-class teacher, a friend of mine, came in to see me. He had a class of about a hundred, and his Sabbath School lesson was something like a sermon, and he often came in and talked things over with me. He asked me "what kind of a time did you have?" I said, "a poor time; beating against the air all day." "Well," he said, "I had one of the grandest days of my life. He was on the mountain; I was in the valley. I took up the character of Noah," he said. "Did you ever study the character of Noah?" "Well, I said, "I think I know all there is about Noah. You can read it all in the Bible in about five minutes." "Yes," he said, "but did you ever study it up? I think if you were to do so, you would get great help from it. When he had gone I took down the Bible and read all there was about Noah. It came stealing over me that I had worked on for 120 years without a convert outside of his own family. I went down to the noon prayer meeting and there I found two or three hundred people, and I thought, "What would Noah have thought if he could have had a meeting like this." He never saw two or three hundred antediluvians meeting together for prayer. A man at that meeting told us he had come from a town in Illinois where they had admitted a hundred to the church, and I said to myself, "What would Noah have given to have heard that?" He never heard a man say he was lost, and asked to be prayed for. From that date