

Under God, Eternal destinies are in the teacher's care—how careful should he be that his responsibility is fulfilled to the best of his ability.

But if the Responsibility is great—the possibility of teaching is no less great. Children are impressionable, what they are taught can never be wholly obliterated from their minds. The good thoughts given them of God will accompany them thro' life—accompany them to places of temptation and infamy—accompany thro' long years of sin and negligence of God, and perchance at last may bring them to repentance. Or back into godless homes they may with childish eagerness carry the truths they have learned, and there among thoughtless companions fulfil the word that is written "a little child shall lead them".

Or who shall not say that those "words of life" learned in childhood may have the highest effect to the destruction of sin and make the recipient a centre of good influence wherever his lot in life may be cast. The possibilities are great—be not discouraged. They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.

Having thus emphasized the responsibility and possibility of teaching, the practical bearing of this paper shall be—How is this urgent responsibility to be best fulfilled? How is this possibility (so far-reaching in its effects) to be attained? The answer to these questions is:—The responsibility of teaching is to be fulfilled, and its possibility attained by preparation on the part of the teacher. Preparation is the weapon with which we are to fight the battle of God—preparation the armour by which we are protected from defeat.

In dealing with this subject of preparation I do not claim to set before you anything that is new, but simply to offer to you, in a systematized form, a few old thoughts that have frequently come before you in your S. S. work.

For convenience let us divide the work of preparation into two main branches. For want of better terms we shall call these:—I, Practical preparation; II, Spiritual preparation. The one so frequently merges into the other that it may at times be difficult to draw the line of distinction.

#### I. Practical preparation.