

for it is enjoined. In the means themselves there is no virtue ; but as they lead to God and keep with Him. Otherwise they remain still, as they often have done, a mere bodily exercise and profit nothing. But let them be used as Christ bids, and they secure the succor that is almighty.

*God is our power!* Are we to *cure* the ignorant? It must be by God. Let every capable disciple—and should not every disciple be capable?—Let every capable disciple sit down and ask himself: How many ignorant ones have I around me to instruct? How many souls are committed to *my charge*? And, who can truthfully, who can earnestly, who can hopefully, set himself to the work but in the way Christ prescribes? Our homes, our schools, our churches, should all be sanctified agencies. But are they? Does the parent, the teacher, the minister, the elder, the member, his work as he ought? Are not our homes, our schools, our pulpits our classes, our various agencies often failures? Why? Because *that* parent, *that* master, *that* teacher, *that* minister, *that* member, has not his efforts baptized by the Spirit of God. He has not gone to God; or if he has, he has not kept with Him. Every disciple should be an instructor in his own sphere; but where is he to get his power—the right spirit, the right heart, as well as the right head, but from God? Let him use the means the Saviour prescribes, and he will have power. *Prayer and fasting* will disclose to him the dark spots wherever they are: *Prayer and fasting* will discover to him his own utter impotence: *Prayer and fasting* will direct him to the best means—not only to the *best* means, but to the right use of the best means; and prayer and fasting will constrain him, while putting forth every energy of his own, still to put his whole trust in the Creator.

The Press might in this country—and undoubtedly there is room—be made a much more powerful christian agency than it is. Would that its conductors were all on the side of God! But the Pulpit, above all others, must ever remain the main agency. And has this the power it might and should have? Fathers and Brethren! that is a question for our closets and studies. Are we taking the pains we might, in private and in public? Is our faith as it should be? Are our efforts as they might be? Have we nothing to learn in the way of expelling the demon by a more skilful adaptation of our instructions to the people. It is not discourses that please our own taste, but discourses for the conscience of the people, and that will do for the Judgment Day, we must seek. It is not by seeking to make eloquent sermons, or aping things above us, that we can hope to succeed, but by each using well his own talent, and in his own way casting in the seed. A common wish among earnest men at home is, that sermons were less stiff, less formal, and more natural, more pointed, more direct—and is this not what we need here? Had we more prayer, more fasting and prayer, would we not have more of adaptation—more simplicity, more boldness, more fervour, more unction, more power?

*God is our Power.* Are we to *cure Unbelief*? It must be by God. Has Jesus—there above us, the Emancipator of this land, the Sender of the Bible, the Sender of the Missionary,—not occasion to upbraid it: “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you; how long shall I suffer you?” After all that His disciples here have witnessed of His power to the soul as well as to the body—for here has He not raised the dead? Are there no converts here? Has He not occasion to upbraid *them* with *unbelief and hardness of heart*? Shall we not cast ourselves at His feet: “Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief.” Are we to prevail—to have the victory—to pronounce the mountain-removing fiat? Who but God shall gird us with the strength?

*God is our Power.* Are we to *cure Vice*? It must be by God. The abominations of the land call us to deep thought, earnest humiliation, devout prayer. Are we to stem the tide of profanity? Are we to deliver the people's hearts from debasing selfishness and worldliness? Are we to obtain virtue to exorcise those unclean spirits which do in truth possess the land? Then here is our *Talisman*. The sins that prevail, if we are thoughtful holy men at all, will send us often to our closets, but our closets will send us forth better armed warriors. We shall meet often with defeat and disappointment, but this will not make us less valiant. We have need of the utmost tact and the greatest gentleness; and in our sacred retirements, we shall have infused into us the Serpent's wisdom, and the Dove's