

Pierson underestimated the results of his own work, and overestimated the results obtained by the evangelist. It is never easy to tabulate spiritual results. At the same time the experience of the past eighteen centuries proves that the presence or absence of the Spirit means the presence or absence of power. Even the Word of God itself is, without the illumination of the Spirit, just so much paper and ink. A cultured ministry is unquestionably a need of the present day, but a far greater need is a ministry filled with the Spirit of God. In other words, what we want in the pulpit of to-day is converted culture. Culture without conversion is nothing more than "sounding brass, or tinkling cymbal;" and conversion without culture is incomplete.

Another source of power is entire self-renunciation. We must leave all, if we would follow Jesus, not only what the hand holds, but what the heart holds too. No one has ever yet done anything for the world without the sacrifice of self. Most men worthy of the name are capable of single acts of self-sacrifice, but God asks a life-long sacrifice, or, to put it in another way, conversion not to single acts of goodness, but to a whole new life. Mazzini, in telling the story of his efforts for the liberation of Italy, says that when he found himself alone, forsaken even by those who "had solemnly bound themselves to pursue unshaken the path we had known at the outset to be choked with sorrows," he drew back in terror. But one morning he awoke to find his mind tranquil and his spirit calmed. He had learned in his loneliness "to realize the true ideal of love—love without earthly hope . . . Life is a mission, duty, therefore, its highest law." It was a revelation that came to Mazzini; and what all ministers of the Gospel, and indeed all Christians, need, is a revelation of the same great truth, the truth first taught by Jesus and practised by Him, that the only real and permanent life of a spiritual being is to be found in a continual dying, in the sacrifice of our personal aims, desires, affections, all that we have, and all that we are, for the sake of others. To give less is to fall short of the