

the vision, and girds the loins with strength for service. No one has ever led a holy life who did not lead a prayerful life. The men of power have always been men of prayer.

The third essential qualification for the enlarging of the spiritual life is ready and loving obedience to the will of Christ. Without this all other means will fail. The pathway of blessedness is always the pathway of obedience. It is through loyal obedience to the call of duty that the life of the soul grows stronger and the heart becomes possessed of the joy of the Lord.

THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS WORK.

Whatever deepens life strengthens work. The full life is the serviceable life. Spiritual vitality is power,—the only power out of which work for God comes and stays. But apart from this chief qualification, there are general principles which may serve to guide societies in the attainment of greater efficiency.

It has been well said that in spite of all the improvements made in machinery in our time, there are certain mechanical principles and appliances which are found in all. The machine may be never so unique, but there will still be need of cogs and pinions, axles and journals, pulleys and belts.

So in the working of Societies. They may vary in a multitude of ways, but there are certain practical principles that must remain constant through all.

To secure effective service in any society, there must be knowledge—knowledge of the Society's possibilities, and of the opportunities of work.

It is here that knowledge is power. It is the duty of every society to keep informed with respect to the needs in all departments of church activity, and seek to measure up to its opportunity. Facts furnish fuel, not for missionary fires alone, but for every good cause that requires assistance. Lack of interest in any department of work is due mainly to lack of information. The Schemes of the Church would be very much more enthusiastically and generously supported if a knowledge of the important and far-reaching character of the work being done could be imparted to those who are now uninformed. This is seed that pays well for the sowing.

Another means of strengthening the work in our own society is system. Accession of power is frequently a matter of improved methods. Knowing "how" in many cases makes all the difference between a vigorous and a run down society. A mob and an army is distinguished not so much by courage or numbers as by method.

While it is true that we are dependent always on the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is also true that we must furnish the proper channels through which the Spirit may manifest Himself. The prayer for power is an idle prayer unless there is

with it the use of the best known means for the accomplishment of the work.

On the bank of a rushing river, we do not need to pray for water so much as to set to work to provide a water-wheel. Many societies would do a great deal more than they are doing if they planned their work more carefully and then worked their plans. One society's contributions for missions increased in one year from six to eighty dollars by adopting the principle of systematic giving. Best work always requires best methods.

Another principle that is required for effective service is the adaptation of the proper means to the end in view. Much labor is expended needlessly, and much enthusiasm frittered away through ill-adapted means.

David Crocker's maxim, "Be sure your right, then go ahead," is a good one for all Christian workers. If you want the bees to hum on your lawn, you cannot secure their presence by wishing their advent.

If you want the birds to cheer you with their songs, you will not gain your desire by calling them from your doorstep. But if you will plant the elms and the maples, provide the honeysuckle and the clover, the birds and the bees will come of their own accord without your invitation, and they will delight you with their drowsy hum and cheerful melody.

A minister sought to lead his people to repentance, and preached upon its nature and necessity without results. Then while studying the words, "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance," he was led to adapt the means to the end. He proclaimed the love of God as disclosed in Christ, with the result that hard hearts were melted, and the Spirit used the means to give repentance unto life.

Any society will gain in power which employs the appropriate means to secure the desired results. Spiritual harvests, no more than natural harvests, "just happen."

Young people, we are making to-morrow's character to-day. What we do or fail to do now, becomes part of us for the rest of our lives. We can never escape from to-day. We may not be able to perceive at this time its relation to our whole character, but some day, perhaps twenty-five years hence, there will come to us an experience the issue of which depends upon this day's contribution to character. Faithfulness to-day is the only way to insure success in some distant to-morrow.

A great life may grow amid small circumstances, but it cannot possibly grow on the food of trifling thoughts, trashy reading and low company.