

St. Paul had some physical or perhaps other trouble. He prayed once, he prayed twice, he prayed thrice and his request was not granted. He found however that something was given him which enabled him to endure, and even rejoice in his trouble. He found that he was a better man, and a stronger man and even a happier man. God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee." We must look for special Providence not in the material realm, but in the spiritual.

(3) Then next I think we must strive to master a more spiritual conception of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of the meaning of that great key word of Christianity—Incarnation. We must learn from His blessed life, first that in Him we see and know God, and secondly, that in Him we learn not only that one Man was once Divine, but that all men are God's children. That, grasped as a living truth, must raise our ideals, must make us discontented with and ashamed of our lower natures, and nerve us for the struggle for self-mastery.

(4) And lastly (although there are many more things that could be enumerated) we must strive to spiritualize our conception of the Church.

The Church in idea is the Universal Society whose mission is to realize the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It is a great spiritual order, and it cannot be defined or bounded by any external constitution. Its unity is compatible with an infinite variety of Government, Doctrine and Worship. It is primarily a spiritual unity.

The Church like all other things grows and develops. Its law of progress is the same as the general law of religious development. From the lower to the higher, from the letter to the Spirit. Written Creeds, written Constitutions, uniform Worship, may be valuable in certain periods of human development, but sooner or later they become fetters not only on the minds but on the very souls of men. There must be a more spiritual bond than any of these things. The love of God, the Highest, by the aspiring soul that strives for Truth and Righteousness, that is a spiritual bond. It is still the First and Great Commandment.

The love of Man, expressed in fellowship and co-operation for a common good, that is still the second commandment