

their way and the virulence of the opposition that they would have to overcome, therefore He said, "But tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." The Church has need of the "Power of the Spirit for Service." I argue this need from the confession of failure which has come down to us all along the ages of the Church's history. Ministers of the Gospel sigh forth the old lamentation of the prophet, "Lord, who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" They tearfully confess their weakness and inability to cope with the mighty obstacles to spiritual progress. Vice-bearers of all the Churches complain of the absence of the Spirit's power in the service they render.

Listen to the frank utterances of God's people, irrespective of denomination, irrespective of association or of status in society, and I hear one great and general confession of want of something, and that something is not the spirit of fear, but of power—the power of the Holy Ghost. Then, brethren, I see the need of the power of the Spirit, when the responsibility of the Church is considered. When I look at the position occupied by the Church of Christ, and the design of Christ in founding the Church, I am compelled to come to this conclusion, that the Church is responsible before God for all that Grace can enable her to do.

It is absolutely needful that we have "great grace" to be successful in winning souls, and for having it we are responsible because it is provided in Christ, and offered without money and without price in the exceeding great and precious promises of the Word of God.

The work to be done by the Church is no holiday work. It demands the highest attainable wisdom, the bravest type of spiritual heroism, and the most saint-like patience possible. The carnal mind to-day is enmity against God, and to the Church is committed the ministry of reconciliation. There are lost sheep wandering in the wilderness, and it is ours to go after them in the spirit of the Good Shepherd, and seek to bring them back to the fold and pasture of Christ. There are prodigal sons in the far country, and in the spirit of the true, the Heavenly Elder Brother we must seek to win them back to the heart and home of their Father.

When I look at the responsibility of representing Christ in the Church and to the world, I come to the conclusion that nothing less than the power of the Holy Ghost can fit us to meet the enormous responsibility which presses upon us. I am sure that it needs no elaborate argument to prove the absolute insufficiency of the Church for her vast and mighty work without the power of the Spirit. For this Divine endowment there can be no substitute. You may bring stores of learning, you may bring reasoning powers clear and vigorous, you may bring an imagination of the most imperial type, you may bring eloquence that can move to tears or smiles at its sovereign will, you may bring sympathy of the most persuasive kind, you may bring zeal that knows no