

there are times in every man's life when all things seem to be against him. These are times to try men's souls, and, see what spirit they are of. Then it is that the 'patience of the saints' must be called into play. Not a mere blind holding on to an untenable position, but a quiet persistence in *good work*, through evil report and good report. Turning not either to the right or to the left. Patiently continuing in *well doing*. "Troubled on every side but *not driven to the wall*. (I translate the passage literally you see,) Perplexed but not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed." There is a picture of a courageous and successful Gospel Minister.

And now finally for a parting last word. I have reserved for the last what perhaps is the most essential of all, and without which your Ministry will be but 'sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.' Amongst the qualifications for a good Minister, I have not hitherto named a fundamental one, viz: devoted piety and intelligent consecration, consecration for a reason, giving up of the spirit, soul, and body, to the service of God, because it is a reasonable service, and then pursuing the work of the ministry in all its varied departments in the *power* of the *Spirit* of God. The Spirit no longer endues men miraculously with tongues, nor does the Spirit give apocalyptic visions of truth. You must learn your Greek and Hebrew by study; and by severe discipline you must learn to think. But, what is to be the impelling power of study, the light and life of all your thinking? I say, without question the Spirit of God. "He helpeth our infirmities"; by His power and strength you must look to become wise and well equipped scholars, having a perfect mastery of your tools, and specially mighty in the use of that wonderful aggressive weapon, the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. So after acquiring knowledge by means of study; in the power of the Spirit, you will preach, teach, and pray.

The Spirit of God will not give you either a good voice or good pronunciation, or grammatical utterance. He will not fill your memory with incidents, or your imagination with images. But the Spirit of God will stimulate you to work when disposed to be idle, to study when disposed to light reading, to conscientious search of the Scriptures when disposed to make your sermons mere slap-dash oratory. The Spirit, too, will give a tenderness to your pleading, a force to your remonstrances, an energy to your warnings, that no mere natural powers will enable you to attain to. You will have constantly that indescribable power called *unction*, which will carry conviction to

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