

HOPEFULNESS IN CHRISTIAN WORK.

BY D. L. MOODY.

You can't find a church in Christendom where people are being saved but the Church people are hopeful. You will find them stopping after the meeting and saying, "What a grand meeting we had, how God is blessing us." I want to call attention to this—Many a man has toiled hard and has got nothing, simply because he was not hopeful. God's man is hopeful. A man who is full of faith is full of hope. You can't find a place in the Bible where God used a discouraged man. Let a minister come into this pulpit who is without hope and the same feeling will get into the pews. It's very catching. If the pews have their harps hung on the willows and there will be nothing done. But let the minister be a hopeful man, and hopefulness will spread and get into the pews.

A friend of mine was telling me that for years he had preached without hope. He used to go down to his pulpit, and sometimes he would say to his wife he would go down and preach, but he didn't believe it would do any good. He didn't expect people to accept his teaching, and they didn't. Afterwards he woke up to the fact that he was the guilty. He saw that he ought to preach expecting results. He began the work again on a new plan, and when he did so God began to bless him. Read the Bible, and you will find that God's men in all ages have been men full of hope. God is called the God of hope.

A friend of mine was telling me that in Boston a man came to him complaining because the Church was going to pieces. He said to him do you doubt the final result of this? Do you believe that Jesus is going to set up His kingdom, and rule and sway even to the end of the earth? Do you believe that he will conquer in the end? The man replied, Of course I do. Then why are you cast down? Why don't you rejoice? Lift up your head, the time of our redemption draweth near. It is only a question of time. Let us be full of hope.

In Chicago, once, I got cast down and very much depressed. I didn't see the work prosper in my hands as it used to do. I was in my study one Monday morning brooding over the Sabbath I had had, when a Bible class teacher, a friend of mine, came in to see me. He had a class of about a hundred, and his Sabbath School lesson was something like a ser-

mon, and he often came in to talk things over with me. He asked me, "what kind of a time did you have?" I said, "a poor time; beating against the air all day." "Well," he said, "I had one of the grandest days of my life. He was on the mountain I was in the valley. I took up the character of Noah. Did you ever study the character of Noah?" "Well," I said, "I think I know all there is about Noah. You can read it all in the Bible in about five minutes." "Yes," he said, "but did you ever study it up. I think if you were to do so you would get great help from it." When he was gone I took down the Bible and read all there was about Noah. It came stealing over me then that he worked on for 120 years without a convert outside his own family.

I went down to the noon prayer meeting and found there two or three hundred people, and I thought, What would Noah have thought if he could have had a meeting like this. He never saw two or three hundred antediluvians meeting together for prayer. A man in that meeting told us that he had come from a town in Illinois where they had admitted a hundred to the Church, and I said to myself, "What would Noah have thought if he could have heard that?" Another man said he was lost and asked us to pray for him, and I thought, "What would Noah have given to have heard that?" He never heard a man say that he was lost and asked to be prayed for. From that day I was not cast down, but if I ever was I never told any body about it. I don't do to tell people if you are cast down, for if you do you are sure to discourage somebody else. We must be full of hope and courage; we must expect to succeed.

There are many men that say, "Give us the morality of the New Testament never mind about the theology." Aye, but you cannot get the morality without the theology, unless you like to have rootless flowers and lamps without oil. And if you want to be as Paul enjoins you will have to be as Paul preaches. "I beseech you, therefore by the mercies of God that ye do so and so."

Sometimes the heaviest wheat of all may spring up from seeds dropped in an accidental way. What a motive to the maintenance of a personal holiness! The accidental is a shadow of the intentional. Influence is the exhalation of character.
—W. M. Taylor,