

Bible readings have been greatly owned. Some truth, or doctrine, or duty, considered, studied, understood in the light of the Word of God. Father Reeves, the noted English class-leader, delighted in this form of class-meeting service.

Question-meetings may have at times peculiar advantage, especially for young Christians. An opportunity given for enquiry on any point affecting spiritual life, if used sincerely, to remove doubt, to solve difficulties, to strengthen faith, to give clearer light, cannot but be promotive of progress and strength.

I have found that special requests for prayer at the outset of a class-meeting have given a peculiar unction, tenderness and power to the entire service, while in answer to earnest pleading, I have not been surprised to hear that at the very time we were engaged, in supplication, those who were the special subjects of petition were met and blessed by God.

While the leader may guide the service, it may at times add interest and profit to ask some member of the class to give out the opening hymn and read the lesson, another to respond to the experiences given; or, instead of replying directly to one and the other, a comparison of testimonies may be attended with great good, or at the close, a brief and practical unfolding of the lessons suggested by the various experiences may be of real and permanent benefit.

Whatever form or variety of exercise is used, the aim of the class-meeting should ever be considered. It is not simply to please. It is not merely to spend an hour of devotion. It is not mainly to awaken joy, to raise the emotions and place us on some Pisgal height of feeling. This may be well. Our emotional nature often needs stirring. We are all the better for the hallelujah ecstasy. We need to catch more of the jubilant spirit of Charles Wesley in his exultant hymn:

“ My God, I am Thine, what a comfort divine,  
What a blessing to know that my Jesus is mine;  
In the heavenly Lamb, thrice happy I am,  
And my heart it doth dance at the sound of His name.”

The class-meeting is, however, pre-eminently for self-examination and heart-searching. Its great aim is to quicken, revive