

spiritual strength that will enable you to accomplish your work. That, if you lose this, you will become weak as other men.

Everything, therefore, that injures your spirituality, robs you of your power. Satan knows this, and acts accordingly. Against you he will bring his most powerful temptations, and no effort will be left unmade in order to rob you of your strength, and ultimately to effect your ruin. His cry will be "aim not at great or small, but at the king of Israel only." Be therefore on your guard, and remember as the fierce assault is made, that no strange thing has happened unto you.

Your position also will bring with it special dangers. Outsiders imagine that it is an easy thing for ministers to keep up their spiritual life. Alas for us, there is not a minister but knows by sad experience that it is not so. There is a constant danger of our becoming *formal*, and of our being content with the form. It is so in reading the Scriptures. It is so in public, and private, prayer. It is so in talking to sinners; and it is so in preaching the Gospel. Unless, therefore, we are constantly on our guard, we shall be ensnared by the evil. There is also a danger of our becoming *indolent*. You will now be left pretty much to yourselves, and, if you please, you may dream through the round of your duties, with even a degree of approval by the people. But beware. In the arbour of ease Christian lost his roll. In God's sight idleness is sin. It is the barren tree that is to be cut down, and the unprofitable servant that is to be cast into outer darkness.

There is also the danger of being puffed up with *pride*. You are now, for a time, to be placed in a position of influence, and the possession of power always brings with it danger to its possessor. It is so with wealth, it is so with social position, and it is so with office in the world, and the Church. Be therefore on your guard against this.