

*in order* to reconstruct souls; to win men to God and make them like God.

If this, then, be the position, the commission and the aim of the preacher—if he be simply a *herald* sent to deliver a certain *message* in order to *salvation*—then, beyond a doubt, Christianity means, first and last, conquest. It is essentially and everywhere aggressive. It is a redeeming, liberating force flung into the world. Its one distinguishing and pre-eminent quality is the quality of attack. While a proclamation of peace and comfort to the bruised and heavy laden, and of liberty to the captive, it is a declaration of war to every evil thing. It is the good against the bad, the right against the wrong, truth against falsehood, Christ against Belial, God against Satan, unalterably bent on victory, and, with no possible rest of battle until the complete and utter overthrow of evil is accomplished. The very genius of Christianity is therefore assaulting. Defensive warfare achieves no conquests, pushes to no new territory covered by the enemy. And Christ's kingdom is in this world to drive Satan's kingdom out. Simply "holding the fort," or chiefly "holding the fort," is hardly the business of an army that has been commissioned to go into all the world.

In entire harmony with this view of the matter is all Scripture. How little apologetic is in the Word of God. How overwhelmingly assertive and aggressive it is, and how rarely defensive. With what tremendous assumptions the Book opens, as if to declare were to establish, in the fullest belief of the self-evidencing power of truth; "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Who is to believe that without evidence? How do we know there is a God? Why did not the author of Genesis give us the proof before he opened the book with such an astonishing declaration? What an opportunity for an argument for the being of God. But we do not find it from Genesis to Revelation, in Old Testament or New Testament, by Moses or Jesus. No sacred herald of God attempts anywhere along the pages of inspiration to prove that God is. It is taken for granted and asserted in the repose of sublimest confidence, and supported by no argument whatever, *a priori* or *a posteriori*, ontological, cosmological or teleological. And substantially this is the case with the other great truths of Scripture. They are declared, not proved. As if God and the Word of God, and the works of God, and the soul, life, death, immortality, were their own evidence.

Yet an army, fired with the spirit of conquest, and entering a hostile territory with the sole view of its complete possession, and therefore halting not in its purpose of capture, but everywhere and constantly aggressive, will nevertheless be compelled now and then to resist assault, and its quality of defense as well as attack will be put to the test. If the enemy is at all skillful he will resort to tactics that will reverse the conditions of warfare and oblige the attacking party to