

" Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small ;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

As ministers of Christ, we must take the chief burden of responsibility upon ourselves in the endeavor to promote the spiritual life of our churches ; let us not shrink from it, but prayerfully and with fixed purpose give ourselves to the work. Much grace is needed, but all grace will be given if we seek it. We must urge upon our people the necessity of a *holy life*, and of separation from the world. We must remind them of Christ's words, " Let him *deny himself*, and take up his cross daily, and *follow Me*." We must impress upon them the importance of *prayer*, and the benefit of quiet meditation as in the presence of God. We must insist upon a closer acquaintance with the Word of God, reminding them of the words of the Psalmist and of Peter, " Thy Word hath quickened me ; " " Desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." It is sad to think of the few who prayerfully read God's Word, even for ten minutes each day. We must by all means seek to *draw men to Christ* as the true centre of unity, reminding them that they with us are fellow-heirs with the saints, and are therefore citizens of heaven. Thus teaching, thus urging, in the spirit of prayer, in the spirit of love, in the spirit of our Master, I firmly believe spiritual life would increase.

As the leaders of our people, we may do much to promote the spiritual life of our churches by our *example*. The eyes of men are upon us, and they copy us more than we think, and our influence, direct and indirect, is felt more than we imagine. Would we see our people holy, prayerful, Christ-like, zealous ? Let us take care that we give them a copy worthy of imitation. " Brethren," said Paul, " be ye followers of me." Who of us dare say that always ? Our people will seldom reach a higher standard than we ourselves present ; if, therefore, our devotion and likeness to Christ be partial, and our conversation trifling, what can we expect our people to be ?

Need I say we must be *men of prayer*. Can we forget how our Master prayed—spending *whole nights* in prayer, or how Paul bore his people on his heart before God ? Can we forget the prayers of Luther, or how all successful men have been *praying men* ? " I fear the prayers of John Knox more than ten thousand men," said Mary Queen of Scots. We little know the power we wield when we pray. Are there not evil influences possessing the hearts of many of our people,—and, alas ! our own hearts too ? We know who holds the remedy ; let us apply to Him. Let us come like the disciples of old, when baffled and defeated by Satan ; and as we come to pray for ourselves and for our people, let us remember that all things are possible to him that believeth. I repeat, we must be men of prayer before we can hope to see an increase of spiritual life. Could we not have our prayer-union, and agree to pray for each other at a given hour at least once a week ? The thought would be helpful that we were asking for the same thing at one time ; and who can tell the blessing that might follow ?

" More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.
Wherefore let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day ;