

the words, almost invariably misapplied, are only the fragment of a sentence and cannot be understood unless the whole sentence, comprising two verses, be taken together. The meaning of the passage is pivoted on the two little words, "as" and "so." For *as* the rain cometh down . . . from Heaven," "*so* shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth." That is to say, that as God sends rain, and sunshine, and seasons, that there may be a harvest for the man who sows the seed, and bread for him who works for it, *so* God gives His Word and spiritual influences that, first, the individual who labors for the bread that perisheth not shall have it in abundance, and secondly, the minister who labors for souls shall have seals to his ministry.

You have all heard the phrase, "I believe in the revival that *comes down*, not in one that is *got up*." The phrase is a very pretty one. It is somewhat flip-pant, but the antithesis is quite taking. I will not say that the expression can never be properly employed, but this I will say—as it *is* used it is most mischievously, I may almost say wickedly, inappropriate. A revival, genuine and successful, may be just as legitimately worked up, or "got up," as a harvest may be. Two things should be ever borne in mind, first, that God's time for saving souls is always current, and secondly, that His servants are not mere *instruments*, but *agents*; not only *to be wielded* for the accomplishment of what God designs, as an unthinking sword is wielded by the hand that grasps it, but *to act* as in-

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