

God will make revelations of Himself to us, with which we may enforce His higher truths; and He will make them everywhere—in the flying leaf, the vanishing vapor, and the sweeping dust; in the falling sparrow, the short-lived moth, and the blooming and fading flower; in the yearning of a father over his wandering son, the watching of a mother over her helpless babe, and the heavenliness of home. So seeing, we shall no longer bear man's illustration, but God's; and men will unconsciously recognize in it something of God's power.

Taking art and science by the hand, as aids and guides in this their sphere, religion must make the world, with all in it, tributary to the pulpit; and make full use of it, until the message of wrath and love is written, as the Bible would write it, on everything that meets man's eye, appeals to his reason, dwells in his memory, fastens to his hopes, moves his heart, and links itself with his life. Such preaching will have power with man. In the end, the distilling dew shall, from morn to morn, speak to him of the silence, the energy, the quickening, invigorating contact, and the wide-reaching influence of God's proclaimed message; the flaming course of the morning sun, as it hastens to its meridian splendor, shall show him daily the "path of the just" drawn across the skies, in its beginnings out of darkness, in its light dispelling the darkness and calling forth the life of the world, in its constant progress, and in its reaching out toward perfection; and the fading leaf, sweeping across the sky, while it speaks to him of his own withering life, shall tell him also of the accumulated work and imperishable monument in the tall monarch of the forest standing out against the sky, left behind to bless the coming generations with its shade and protection.

3. Another element of power and effectiveness is to be found in the presentation of the specific truths of God's Word. We deal too much in these days in generalities. It is all wrong. Such truths, from their very nature, can possess comparatively little interest. And they are few in number; the man who deals in them must soon either exhaust or repeat himself. Moreover, it is not the Bible way; for in it everything is specific. The one who holds fast by the precise truth of each text of scripture will always present what is fresh and new, because, unlike general truths, specific truths are infinite in number and variety.

Over each text a vital question is, "What is the exact thing that God would teach in this message?" The man who always asks it, and always presents what he ascertains as its answer, will not present the same subject in connection with all kindred texts; he will preach neither abstract theology nor philosophy, but God's Word—which is better than either or both.

"Here, by way of illustration, are two texts: "By Him all things consist." "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in the man that walketh to direct his steps." We have heard