

The sermon that lingers in my memory as the greatest that I ever heard was preached by him at an annual service for our Students' Missionary Society. His subject, taken from the words "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone," was the Loneliness of Self,—the isolation of the life that is not surrendered to God in Christ. He brought to it a wealth of illustration from Scripture, from literature, from the experience of life, till it seemed as if the one who lives for self were shutting out all communion, were exchanging all the blessed possibilities of life for an existence in solitary confinement: and then, swinging round from this loneliness of the soul that has forsaken God and man and that at last must find itself utterly forsaken, he presented to us the life of the soul that is surrendered to Christ.

If I were asked to name the secret of his power, I should place it in his grasp of the Fatherhood of God and his intensely vivid realization of the Person and Work of Christ. This gave him a message for his fellow-men; he wanted them all to know the Father as he knew Him, to see the Christ as he saw Him; and his great throbbing heart, in which the love of God was shed abroad, impelled him to make the message known. You know the difference between first and second-class oratory. They used to note in Athens that when some speaker, who, though eloquent, was not of the highest order, addressed the people, they praised the man and said, "What a wonderful speaker;" but when Pericles spoke they lost sight of the man in his message and cried with one heart and voice, "Let us fight against the Persians." Those who listened most to Norman Macleod were led beyond the man to his message, for he moved them to say, "Let us follow Christ."

The same power of the highest kind, as a speaker, belonged in a very wonderful degree to Spurgeon. I don't know whether I would have enjoyed hearing him every Sunday as much as Macleod, but I never heard him without delight and benefit, for no man could speak with greater singleness of desire to exalt Christ. He was a marvelous preacher, in some respects the most wonderful on record. He began his ministry in London at nineteen years of age; he leaped almost at one bound into renown, soon taking by common consent the foremost place among the