

lips are sealed from speaking to others by the consciousness of his own inconsistencies. I do not mean to say that this is an excuse. If one has been inconsistent before the impenitent, he ought to admit it, confess it, and then speak for Jesus. The influence a truth or statement may have depends very much upon who shall utter it. I have heard a plain, hesitating, uneducated man speak, and every one listened attentively and respectfully, while his simply-uttered supplications impressed the most unconcerned. In the same meeting I have heard one speak in fine language and with great fluency, and pray with real eloquence, and every one seemed utterly indifferent, if not disrespectful. The difference was accounted for by the difference in the characters of the two men.

The first man's life was Christ-like, gentle; kindness was a ruling characteristic. The other was hard, censorious, not easily pleased nor disposed to incommode himself to accommodate others.

A gentleman from England wrote that he went in some one of our cities into the morning prayer-meeting of one of the churches; that during the meeting a man spoke with little or no animation, and the address was wanting in all the elements calculated to produce an impression; yet, to his astonishment the entire meeting appeared to be listening with rapt attention, and it was but a little before he saw many of the people were in tears. He was so utterly surprised at the result that he was led to inquire about it at the close of the service. He was told that the man who had spoken was so remarkable for his uniform Christian consistency, and was so gentle and affectionate, that his words were always weighty, for that his life had secured him the affection of the whole church. This visitor wrote further, that he went to the meeting the following morning, and was much interested in the whole service, and especially so in a gentleman's address, who spoke with such fervour and eloquence as to excite his feelings intensely, so that he found himself weeping profusely, and supposed that everybody in the meeting would be as much excited as himself; but on looking around he found that he was the only weeper to be seen. Again he was astonished, but the solution was the fact that, while his brethren did not question his being a Christian, his life had not compelled their respect.—*From Winning Souls.*