

do we not feel that they are sadly lacking in power? When Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst," He first said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father, which is in heaven." We want more of that spirit in our prayer-meetings which animated the disciples, who, when they prayed, felt the place shake where they were assembled, and were filled with the Holy Ghost. Our prayer-meetings, I maintain, are not what they ought to be, what they might be, what they must be, before they are helpful in promoting the spiritual life of our churches.

Our *church meetings*, I believe, ought to be made more serviceable to us spiritually than they now are. In some quarters they are too often scenes of worldliness,—but need it be so? If business must be done, let it be as in the presence of Christ. Why do not Christians remember more that they live to promote *His* cause, to carry on *His* work—not their own. What anguish was in the heart of him who said long ago words that might be applied very widely now, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's," or of him who said, "I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the pre-eminence, receiveth us not." In our church-meetings we ought to realize more than at any other time what is the true union and communion of the saints. Let us make the tone of our church-meetings more spiritual,—let us when we meet realize that we come together as members of Christ, to promote the welfare of His Church; let us assemble and remain together more in the spirit of prayer, and we remove a great hindrance to, and also supply a powerful means for, the promotion of the spiritual life. How often we sing—would that we felt and practised the truth more—

" Make us of one heart and mind,
Courteous, pitiful, and kind;
Lowly, meek, in thought and word,
Altogether like our Lord.
Let us each for other care,
Each the other's burden bear;
To Thy Church the pattern give,
Show how true believers live."

The perfection of spiritual life consists in a *likeness to Christ*; and the nearer we get to Him, the more spiritual we become. There must be personal intimacy with Him; there must be walking with Him; I must be able to look to Him as my Friend. And as I mark the loveliness of His character, and listen to the music of His voice, or trace the beauty of His countenance, or feel the kindlings of his love, my heart will warm, the influence of His Spirit will mould mine, my soul will be knit to Him, and my life will be devoted to His service. Men will take knowledge of me; they will behold my works; they will be constrained to say I have *been with Jesus*. Oh that men who call themselves Christians did but realize what they owe to Christ! Then would the words we so often repeat have a meaning and a force, now, alas! often wanting, and we should seek to prove, what now too many *do not* prove, that they are sincere when they sing—