

a cold and careless manner, God has instituted the ministry that his overtures of mercy to the rebellious, that his messages of love to his poor prodigal children, may be conveyed with all the warmth of human affections, and with all the pathos and power of Christian sympathy and love. And we can have no hesitation in saying that a sermon imbued with the spirit of an indwelling sympathy, baptized with the fervour of holy love, will be more effectual than a thousand delivered in a mere mechanical manner. An ardent love for Christ, and for the souls redeemed by his blood, will give a tenderness to your tones, and an intense solicitude to your manner, that will arrest the attention and impress the heart, when the most vociferous declamation has spent itself in vain.

6. Let me advise you to form the habit, and to cultivate the power of extemporaneous speaking. You cannot too carefully prepare for your pulpit duties, but you need not inflexibly bind yourselves to what you have prepared. By a thorough appreciation and mastery of your subject, your mind may be left free to receive any new thoughts, and to appropriate any new illustrations that may present themselves. By deviating from the proscribed line of discourse, you may occasionally stumble upon a mistake, an ill-chosen expression may escape you, and a figure may now and then be employed which the accomplished rhetorician would not approve; but these blemishes will be far more than compensated by the increased animation of your delivery, and by the new light that will flash around you, as you yield yourselves to the kindling emotions of a mind upon which the truth is breaking with new beauty, and majesty, and power.

7. Before leaving the subject of preaching, allow me to express my earnest hope that in all your private studies and pulpit ministrations you will cherish a deep sense of your absolute dependence upon the blessing of God for the success of your labours.