

prone to overlook, viz. Spiritual preparation. All is not done when we have gained a head knowledge of Bible, and doctrine and lesson and pupils. Such practical preparation should have a spiritual foundation.

1. Spiritual preparation means personal religious conviction. It is only the servant of God that can do God's work. There should be a constancy of belief, a living faith, a practical example of Christianity. This religious conviction is the life that gives reality to our message; the fire that ignites the brain; the love that gives earnestness and constancy to our zeal. Without this religious conviction a teacher is like a ship without rudder; like an engine without steam; like a sun without light.

Without religious conviction the teacher is sure to be useless—as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean. Without religious conviction he is worse than useless—he is even misleading—a blind guide seeking to lead the blind. He leads them to error and destruction.

2. Again this spiritual aspect of teaching demands prayerful preparation of the Lesson and of Self. Be Spirit taught. There is a knowledge that comes not from study, or from commentaries, or from lesson helps—a knowledge that is breathed into the soul by God the Holy Ghost. Seek that knowledge which is the result of daily communion with God himself. Use all the helps possible, but do not forget that God can open our hearts to the reception of his spiritual truths, and that after all the best Commentator on Holy Scripture is the Spirit of God. Far be it from me to belittle intellectual application and earnest mental preparation, but let all be done in prayerful reliance upon God and you will find Holy Scripture assuming new meanings, deeper lessons, more attractive truths. "God is his own interpreter" and the faithful soul that prays to be taught of Him need not despair.

3. Again it is not only the lesson that needs the preparation of prayer, but likewise self is to be prepared upon one's knees. There is a conviction that does not come from study; a power that no intellectual application can produce: an earnestness that is not begotten by methods of nature. Conviction, power, earnestness are the gifts of