

required in the minister of the gospel. Being liable at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances, to be called on to engage in prayer and to lead the devotions of others, he especially should cultivate this heavenly gift, and endeavour at all times to be found in the spirit of prayer. This you will find to be one of your most efficient aids in prosecuting the work of the ministry. It was the saying of Luther, "*bene orasse, bene studuisse*," to have well prayed is to have well studied; and it is recorded of that extraordinary man, that he spent three of the best hours of every day with God in prayer. To this may in a great measure be ascribed the secret of his support under his manifold trials, and to this may be traced the secret of his extraordinary success. As a prince he had power with God and prevailed. Pursue then something of a similar course. It will impart unto you a composedness of mind, a serenity of spirit, and a confidence in God, to be derived from no other source. It will communicate unto you a fluency of speech far above and beyond the mere gift of nature. It will give an eloquence to your tongue which no rules of art can teach you to imitate, and a solemnity and impressiveness to your manner of delivery which no hypocrisy can counterfeit; and thus strangers and unbelievers coming into your assembly and feeling the secrets of their hearts made manifest; and so falling down will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth, (1 Cor. xiv. 25.)

And here let me remind you, that the minister of Christ should always be a pattern to the flock. The shepherd should be such as the flock would be willing to follow, and such as they could follow with confidence and with safety. Let no man, therefore, ever be able to apply unto you the taunting proverb, "Physician heal thyself." "But be thou an example to the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity," (1 Tim. iv. 12.)

But while we remind you of your labours, and your trials, consider also your encouragements. You may, as you doubtless will, be exposed to temptations, and called to endure trials and discouragements; but the noblest motives that ever animated the breast of man are presented before you as an incentive to labor, to faithfulness and perseverance in the work of the ministry.

While the politician, and the statesman, and the proudest and most renowned general that ever led a victorious army to the field of battle, even when successful to the highest summit of their heart's ambition, can only promise themselves a few fading honours, a little worldly gain, that perisheth with the using, or perhaps a crown that perisheth. But the faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, amid all his discouragements, has an inward consolation beyond all price. He has the well founded hope of a crown of glory that fadeth not away; and he can look forward with confidence to an approaching period, when "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. And this reward, let me remind you, does not depend wholly upon your success, but upon your faithfulness. To grant success is the prerogative of the Almighty. Faithfulness and diligence are yours; but the blessing is the Lord's. But I believe there are few, perhaps no instances to be found, where a life of faithfulness, in the work of the ministry, is not crowned with the blessing of the Lord. And what shall I say more? but, in conclusion, address unto you the words of the apostle Paul to his son Timothy, under circumstances very similar to those in which you are now placed, "I charge thee therefore before God