

when I felt the Spirit of God rest upon me, and my poor stammering tongue was unloosed, and I talked for one hour and twenty minutes. Many of the friends of other days were affected, and the Saints felt strengthened in God; and I was made to realize that which I think has saved me from falling beneath the weight of the applause and flattery which unthinking friends have heaped upon me; namely that I am but a weak, ignorant creature, and that only when God is with me by his Spirit, can I work successfully in the gospel field. Often, even now, when I hear people talk of efforts I am permitted to make, do I call to mind my first sermon, so carefully prepared, and the second one, preached under the favor of God.

I have written this my experience in order to show the reader how I can preach when I preach in my own strength; and though it is humiliating to have to confess my weakness, yet I trust the eyes of some who are starting out in the ministry will scan these pages and profit thereby. If one soul shall profit by my hard earned experience, I shall count myself well paid.