

### A GOSPEL OF POWER.

The Gospel of the Cross for an evil conscience, is often considered nearly all that is necessary nowadays. Multitudes of believers are resting in the thought that they are free from the penalty of sin. They have life, but not the more abundant life which Jesus came to bring. They do not know the power of His Resurrection. That is the great need of the Church to-day. We want fellowship with the risen Christ to raise us to a higher plane, if we would be of use to anybody. We must be on higher ground if we would lift others up.

The Apostles emphasized the fact that they preached in the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven. That is what we want to-day—power, not words—to wake up our slumbering Christians, to put life into our dead churches. You may preach a perfectly orthodox sermon, full of truth, but it will not disturb the most worldly man present. It cannot put life into dry bones, it can only rattle them, until the spirit breathes into them the breath of life. The difference between apostolic preaching, and that of the present day has been defined by the remark, that while one sermon on the day of Pentecost converted three thousand souls, it now takes three thousand sermons to convert one soul. Thousands of eloquent sermons are preached annually and never reach a single heart, lacking power. They are sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.

Clouds that hang in the heavens do no good; they may be very full of rain, but they need to be pierced by an electric shock before the rain

can fall. There is not force enough in New York City to pull a blade of grass out of the earth, or a flower out of the seed. That requires a divine power; and in preaching the Gospel the power must come from on high. The trouble is, we do not understand the difference between the Paraclete or Comforter, and power for service. He dwells in all believers in a measure, else they could not be converted; but power for service is to be sought as a special gift, and should be sought until received. We must be emptied of all self-sufficiency, for if we rely on natural attainments, education, position, influence, or anything else, we will not get it, or if we seek power for anything but the glory of God, like Simon Magus.

And, last of all, "Separate Me Barnabas and Saul;" separation from the world—from pleasures, worldly ambition, and anything that makes our communion with Christ less real. When the telegraph wire touches the earth it ceases to be insulated and the electric current cannot flow along the line. So when our separation is not complete, the connection between earth and Heaven is interrupted, and there is no power.

Energy is not power, though we sometimes think so; nor personal earnestness, though we often mistake it for power. It is possible to have enthusiasm, and fire, and power over the emotional nature of men so as to sway them at will, but that is not the power of God, and may be utterly barren and fruitless in its effects.—*Exchange.*

Love of truth shows itself in discovering and appreciating what is good, wherever it may exist.