

Judah, led his comparatively small army against a million Ethiopians, he prayed thus:—"Help us, Oh Lord our God, for we rely on Thee and in Thy name are we come out against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God, let not man prevail against Thee." Aas started out with the conviction that his cause was the Lord's cause, and should the enemy prevail against him he would prevail against God. So should we pray for missions. "Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on Thee, and in Thy Name we go out against the terrors of heathendom. Oh Lord, Thou art our God, let not the forces of iniquity prevail against Thee." Such prayer by God's children would soon reduce our list of hindrances, for no one could so pray without working earnestly to help to answer her own prayer.

A second great reason why our work is hindered, is the failure to understand the right motive of Foreign Mission Work. So many women seem to take an interest in our work to please the Circle president or because it looks well to do so, or out of an impulsive sympathy with women in foreign lands, and consequently their interest is not very permanent. But, however praiseworthy any other motive may be there is none so pure and high as that of obedience. The effort to carry out Christ's command "Go preach my Gospel"—There is no other that proves so lasting an incentive to work as this, none that gives so much comfort in the work, and none that promises such rewards. There is no other motive that places us so far beyond the fear of other's opinions, either of praise or blame, and none that will lead us to attempt so much for Christ. We could refuse work for every other reason but that it is for Jesus' sake, remembering that we are equipped with double strength for every task.

The third of the causes of hindrance we might think of is the lack of personal contact of the interested with the indifferent. A very successful Circle president with whom I am acquainted would give you as one of the secrets of her success this answer: "Why, I call on people persistently, I buttonhole them when we meet on the street, I use every opportunity to give a personal invitation to the women of our church to come and hear a little about mission work. I never give it up!" And how it pays, this personal touch with the indifferent. Your pastor depends largely on personal pleading with the unconverted, in winning them one by one when he hopes for the growth of the kingdom. When your Mayor or councilmen stand for re-election at the end of the year, they organize their forces so that, if possible, every doubtful voter in his constituency may be canvassed personally. If we who are full of enthusiasm for mission work wish others to be so, we must canvass them personally; we must be content to win our constituency one by one. When Christ healed the leper, the unclean, out-

cast leper, He stretched forth His hand and touched him. Only Jesus would touch a leper! The touch meant love and sympathy, and touch, personal contact, that means love and interest; and sympathy will do more to win the uninterested to service for the Master than a hundred announcements from the pulpit of meetings to which "all are invited." Try this plan of personal canvass; if persistent efforts of this kind do not meet with success, pray that Christ may open the blind eyes that they may see the fields "white already to harvest."

Finally, and this thought is one that is worn out in preaching, though painfully new in practice. The great cause of hindrance to missions, is the prevalence, even among God's children, of the *selfish spirit*—too little of the spirit of self-sacrifice, the spirit of Christ. It is for this reason that we hear the oft repeated call for money, and the constant warnings to help our Societies out of debt. Oh, the shame of it! God is not a God to make us His stewards and not give us the means wherewith to discharge our duties thoroughly. But we are not faithful stewards. We squander His money. If every one of His children gave to Him only the tenth of the old dispensation, how His work would prosper! Yet too many of us withhold even this and use it for selfish purposes. It is not that our churches do not represent wealth enough, it is that they represent too little of Christ. If Jesus should ask each of us, "Lovest thou me more than thy money, thine own ease or comfort, thy social life?" we could not say, "Yea Lord," and feel that our actions supported our answer. We read that one day we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Oh, the grandeur of the thought! Like Him in His purity, like Him in majesty, but best of all like Him in utter forgetfulness of self! Truly we shall be new creatures.

But now, what shall come of our consideration of "Hindrances" this afternoon? You feel that the only thing that justifies us in stopping an ordinary piece of work to look for hindrances, is the fact that when you have found them you can remove them. And the only thing that justifies us in looking for hindrances to Mission work this afternoon is the fact, that when we know them we may do our share in removing them. If you are conscious that your lack of prayer is keeping back the work, then pray. If you know of some one whom personal influence might win, be persevering in the effort to win them; if it is your want of self-sacrifice that makes the funds of your Circle come short, or the meetings unsuccessful, then practice more of self-denial and ask our Lord to keep you close to Him that it may be all the easier to copy His spirit. After Judah had made David King over them, Israel delayed some time following Judah's example. Finally Abner wrote to them and said, "Ye have sought in times past to make