

"If ye lack wisdom, ask of Me?" Again, "Seek, and ye shall find," "Ask, and it shall be given," "Knock, and the door shall be opened." It may be they have asked, it may be they have sought, and have knocked, and have got tired. But we are told to "Wait on the Lord," be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart, in this promise is great consolation. Hence we must not be weary in well doing, for we shall reap if we faint not. If the pulpit proposes an aggressive attitude, it must have a thorough comprehension of the views of those whom they would encounter, and of reasons which are alleged in their support.

It is not meant that all the opinions and ideas of a future state held by the unconverted, are to be entirely ignored or lightly treated, but a deep sympathy should be engaged into as soon as there is the slightest opportunity of convincing an individual of his lost condition, whereby a reformation can be effected and the soul saved from eternal misery. What part must the church take in this important and oft-neglected matter. First, backsliders are to be looked after, having sought and worked upon their tenderest passions to win them back to the fold. Having done this surely and sincerely, you can proclaim victory over the battle with sin and Satan.

For I believe that we must appeal to the tender feelings of the weaker ones, rather than to storm or bombard an half-surrendered garrison that cannot stand a siege. But whilst all this is being done, how is my own heart to be with my brother or my sister in the Lord? Do you expect the Lord Jesus will hear our prayers that sinners might find peace in their hearts, when we have not that peace in our hearts one with the other? Oh no. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." This being done, we are reinforced for greater action towards a more formidable foe. What does the Apostle to the Gentiles say? Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Then the correct method to adopt that will destroy the evil influences that loiters around the pathway that leads to the heart of the follower of Jesus Christ, which we call hatred, or malice, or an unforgiving spirit, must be all put away from us, before we can dare claim an heirship to the kingdom of Heaven, which is incorruptible and undefiled. John tells us: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love." This then requires concerted action on the part of the church of the living God, to cause that golden thread of love to run through each heart of every brother and sister, and copy that wonderful life of Christ. 3rdly, probably the stubborn and stiff-necked men of the world say as the fool in his heart, there is no God; or like Felix, I will wait a more convenient season, then I'll make up my mind. If this be their argument, then the minister and church is clear to that extent.

An actor once said to a clergyman, we "actors speak of things imaginary as though they were real: you clergymen speak of things real as though they were imaginary." This was Satan rebuking sin. The minister and church should be firm as the rock of ages, for its foundation is not imaginary but real. Built on the solid rock:

"On Christ the Solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand."

That higher standard of living should be their aim. So that in their life be reflected the life of Christ. That life is true fellowship and brotherly love one with the other, and being saved ourselves, should manifest an eager hankering after the souls of others unsaved. When this is done sinners will