

received, freely give." It is of divine inspiration—"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel"; "Every man, according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

In the second place, let us, seeing what God hath wrought by us and through us in the past, humbly seek His aid, rely on Him alone in the future, trust Him fully, follow His commands, and do His work. Who is sufficient for these things but the Omnipotent God alone? By what a strange way has He ever led His people! How marvellous is the history of our Methodism! Especially how wondrous in our eyes is what God hath wrought in and by our own beloved Zion! We look and wonder and adore, and labor on at God's commands, and offer all our work to Him. The years are few since Episcopal Methodism, planted in this country one hundred years ago, was left a second time in weakness to prosecute the glorious commission of preaching the Word of Life—in such weakness as many had said it were annihilation and death. Few, and to themselves and to God tremblingly feeble, were the ministers; scattered and peeled were the people. But the Lord put honor upon their labors and enterprises: it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes. To Him and to Him alone ascribe we all the glory. And the ways and works of the fathers must instruct us—the children. We must pay heed to this lesson of our history. The first preachers went forth in simplicity of mind, trusting the Lord: they had none other to trust. And surely they required none other. Without learning, wealth, civil or social power, honor, or worldly renown, like unto the Apostles of our Lord, they went forth in the name of Christ, relied on the mighty God, and prevailed. Constant, humble labor, cheerful self-sacrifice, prayer and mighty faith, gave them the victory. Not one of these elements of power dare we to day think of losing or lessening. We must have willing toil and ready and entire consecration; we must have ceaseless prayer, an abiding knowledge of our helplessness in ourselves and of our dependence upon God, and a firm, unalterable trust in His covenanted willingness and His grace-pledged power and wisdom to lead us on and secure to us success in our efforts to plant and establish the kingdom of Christ among men. Oh! for a constant dependence, a firm reliance of preachers and people on God! Oh! for

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