

love to Christ is glowing, fervid, burning—and until he finds himself groaning over the lost condition of men, and like Jesus, being in an agony, prays more earnestly.

Then, when his heart is in this state, let him get a few, if he cannot many, to join him in special prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit. Let that little company hold on in united, persistent prayer, "nothing wavering," until the windows of heaven are opened.

The disciples at Jerusalem continued in prayer about ten days, before they received the promised power from on high. It does not appear that the meeting, with so many ministers, in attendance, attracted much attention, until the disciples were fully anointed, and filled with the Spirit.

They could have accomplished but little had they preached and laboured without this preparation; but as soon as it was received, the multitude were drawn to the place in great numbers, and were confounded when they saw the power that rested on those Galileans; a new power attended their preaching. This work commenced with those believers, and spread with great rapidity all over the country.

So it must be with all who would labour successfully in leading souls to Christ; they must tarry at Jesus' feet until they have power with God—then they will have power with men. The gift there received will be with them wherever they go, diffusing its sweet and holy influence, and God's work will be revived, and sinners converted. I have observed for nearly forty years past that the secret of success in promoting revivals of religion is in having our own hearts filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let me say then to pastors and to the Churches: If you believe the glory of God demands a revival in your midst, and you desire to be instrumental in advancing the work, and bringing sinners to the Saviour, first see that your own hearts are thoroughly melted and subdued, under a deep sense of the condition of lost men, and that you are filled with the Spirit, and constrained by the love of Christ; then get a few, if you cannot more, to meet with you, and pray with and for one another, until like those who prayed with Peter and John, you are all filled with the Holy Spirit: then expect

a powerful revival of religion. Do not seek to produce an undue excitement in the community: but do not be afraid of as much interest as was manifest among the people on the day of Pentecost.

In your prayer-meetings have a definite object in view. If you desire an immediate outpouring of the Spirit, ask God for that; if the fulness of His love in your hearts, let that be the burden of your prayer; if the conversion of a friend, agonize for that: whatever you desire, look for it at once. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." If you would have a great blessing, ask for it in faith, in Jesus' name. The Father has nothing too good or great to give for His Son's sake. Jesus is the pledge of all that Infinite Love can bestow, or that we can receive. "How shall he not with him also freely give us all things."

One of the divinely appointed means for promoting revivals of religion, is, at suitable times, to hold a series of meetings for days or weeks together. Among the other departments of ministerial labour, the Saviour appointed evangelists to assist in these meetings, whenever and wherever they might be needed.

In the days of Nehemiah, we find Ezra, the priest, on a pulpit of wood, which had been made for the occasion, engaged in a series of meetings, which continued for many days. Ezra and those who assisted him read and explained the Word of God one-fourth part of the day, and spent another fourth in prayer and confession of sin; in this way they continued the meeting until there was a great revival of religion among them, and a marked reform in their habits and manner of living. Neh. viii. 9.

The apostles also, after Christ's ascension, held a meeting about ten days, with a large number of ministers present. "These, all continued, with one accord [day by day], in prayer and supplication with the women," until the Spirit was poured out upon them, and they received the promised power from on high. Then they were ready for a larger congregation; and the multitudes were quickly attracted to the place, and the displays of grace were so marvellous, and the conversions so numerous, that there was an addition to the Church, on a single day of the meeting, of about 3,000 new members.