

ters, where a few years ago, such things could never have been thought of. We need a revival to counteract this tendency of the times, and to draw the minds and hearts of the young to purer pleasures, to holier joys, to more satisfying sources of happiness.

We need a revival also, to draw forth the sympathy and liberality of christians towards the cause of God both at home and abroad; and to fill their minds with a deep sense of their responsibility to Him who, although rich, for their sakes became poor, that they through His poverty might be rich. We need a revival to increase the love of christians—of christian ministers and christian people to one another, and to make them more like Christ, and more full of love to Him and to one another.

Let us seek a revival, not by the employment of any mere outward machinery, but by an earnest use of the appointed means of grace, with fervent prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit, and the rich and effectual blessing of God on His own truth. The word of God brought home to the conscience and the heart by the Spirit is the great means of reviving and quickening souls. Let us individually use faithfully and earnestly the appointed means, looking up for the promised blessing. If we have not, it is because we ask not, or ask amiss.

The effects of a revival, when it is vouchsafed, are described by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, in an excellent article in *'The Sword and the Trowel,'* in the following paragraphs.

"When a minister obtains this revival he preaches very differently from his former manner. It is very hard work to preach when the head aches and when the body is languid, but it is a much harder task when the soul is unfeeling and lifeless. It is sad, sad work—painfully, dolorously, horribly sad, but saddest of all if we do not feel it to be sad, if we can go on preaching and remain careless concerning the truths we preach, indifferent as to whether men are saved or lost! May God deliver every minister from abiding in such a state! Can there be a more wretched object than a man who preaches in God's name truths which he does not feel, and which he is conscious have never impressed his own heart! To be a mere sign-post, pointing out the road but never moving in it, is a lot against which every true heart may plead night and day.

Should this revival be granted to deacons and elders what different men it would make of them! Lifeless, lukewarm church-officers are of no more value to a church, than a crew of sailors would be to a vessel if they were all fainting and ill in their berths, when they were wanted to hoist the sails or lower the boats. Church-officers who need reviving must be fearful dead weights upon a Christian community. It is incumbent upon all christians to be thoroughly awake to the interests of Zion, but upon the leaders most of all. Special supplication should be made for beloved brethren in office that they may be full of the Holy Ghost.

Workers in the Sunday-schools, tract distributors, and other laborers for Christ, what different people they become when grace is vigorous, from what they are when their life flickers in the socket! Like sickly vegetation in a cellar, all blanched and unhealthy, are workers who have little grace; like willows by the water-courses, like grass with reeds and rushes in well-watered valleys, are the servants of God who live in his presence. It is no wonder that our Lord says, "Because thou art neither cold nor hot I will spew thee out of my mouth," for when the earnest Christian's heart is full of fire it is sickening to talk with lukewarm people. Have not warm-hearted lovers of Jesus felt when they have been discouraged by doubtful sluggish people, who could see a lion in the way, as if they could