

danger is that we may trust to machinery, to organization for success, and if we do, a signal failure awaits us. See that steam-boat lying at the wharf, a huge floating palace! It has been constructed on the very best model, by the most skilful mechanics. Its material is of the best quality, and every part has been thoroughly fitted and finished. Its officers are men of judgment and experience and are all at their appointed stations. Yet the vessel does not move. What is the matter? The motive power is wanting. Now let the steam be applied, and immediately the huge monster begins to snort and move, and ere long is seen majestically ploughing the mighty deep. We have the organization. We must have the motive power—a power inspired, directed, and rendered efficient by the Holy Ghost.

One of the most marked differences between the former times and the present is that our fathers trusted principally to individual effort, while we place our reliance more on organized action—they were content individually to do their duty, we want to unite our agencies and work in a body—they felt their individual responsibility, we want to astonish the world by our achievements. Both classes of effort have their appropriate place in the Church of God. A happy combination is what is needed in this intelligent and stirring age. For the purpose of securing this happy combination let us look at the spirit of the early Methodist members. In estimating the strength of those forces which have produced the astonishing results which have followed in the wake of Methodism, special prominence must be given to Divine agency. God the Holy Spirit has enlightened, prompted, directed, assisted, and sustained in every part of her history, and has given efficiency to all her agencies and instrumentalities. Still there has been an adaptation in the human agency employed. Who will say that the itinerancy, the circuit system, the extemporaneous mode of address has had nothing to do with securing these results? The Methodist Ministry has been a power in the world. But have not her members likewise contributed their full quota to the triumphs that have been achieved? It has been truthfully and beautifully said by a minister of another persuasion that the secret of Methodistic success arose from the fact that "they were all at it, and always at it." When that can be truthfully said of any Church, success is certain.