

Christian can be exempted from this? There is a work to be done, as well as a holiness to be attained. Other souls are to be converted and built up in the faith, as well as one's own soul to be purified and saved ; and a genuine desire to benefit men will bring Christians to the prayer-meeting, to seek God's aid, to obtain strength to work. The answer to their prayers for the conversion and good of men is often, we doubt not, in God's making *them* the instrumentality in doing this work, endowing them with a winning and overcoming power. Thus we hold that prayer should be always accompanied by the earnest, vigorous use of every other instrumentality of good. Prayer does not take the place of active effort. Good is not accomplished by men's praying and not working. A church may pray for the conversion of the world till doomsday ; but if it lifts not a finger to aid the cause, and goes not forth, with strenuous purpose and self-denying labor, to bring the new kingdom of light and love into men's hearts, the world, as far as that church is concerned, will roll darkling on forever. Prayer aids work, prompts the best methods, inspires Christian zeal, and makes it successful.

But in regard to the meeting itself, so much depends upon the pastor for its right conduct, that he, above others, should be prepared in his own mind and heart, and should not approach it with a cold, preoccupied mind ; for an unspiritual leader kills the life of the prayer-meeting. There is an intellectual preparation which he should make in his selection of the passage of Scripture, the hymns, the theme of prayer and contemplation, and the general direction to be given to the meeting, which lend it interest, aim, and depth.

Let us look now at some things to be avoided in the conduct of a prayer-meeting.