

Enlarged Work

This experience confirmed Dr Lloyd-Jones in a principle which he regarded as crucial in counselling. He saw that just as it is disastrous to attempt to treat a case of real physical or mental illness with spiritual remedies, so it is equally wrong to treat a *spiritual* case with what may be of benefit to those who are genuinely mentally ill. Yet as symptoms in the two classes can be very similar, how can one discern to which class a distressed person, in need of help, belongs? His conclusion was that where, in a regenerate person, distress arises out of a sense of sin and an absence of assurance – in other words, where the condition has spiritual causes – then the person will respond to a correct application of the truths and promises of Scripture suited for that condition. Such response may not be immediate and total, but it will be recognisable to the careful pastor. On the other hand, where this use of Scripture is of no avail in removing the distress of persons of whom there is reason to believe that they are Christians, then the likelihood is that medical psychiatric assistance should be sought.

It would be premature at this point in Dr Lloyd-Jones' life to discuss his views on divine healing. But it is notable that some of his most powerful evangelistic sermons were based upon miracles of healing and of the resurrection of the dead as recorded in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. As a physician he looked closely at the misery of disease and of death, and as a preacher of the gospel he gloried in showing that it is the same power which in those instances delivered the body from sickness and death that is supremely glorious in transforming the soul.