

1888

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Minutes
of
Advice
Continued

same way. God's best outward gift to the world today is in consecrated men and women. These are better than any gift. Consecrate thyself to the Lord and He will bestow gifts upon thee.

We have been reminded of the needs of our smaller meetings situated in isolated localities, and of our responsibilities in regard to them in the way of visiting and encouraging them.

In every congregation there are gifts often undeveloped, and unrecognized, that are designed to be used for the building up of the church in that place, and for the ingathering of souls. It is ours to arouse the individual members to a sense of these things, that they may feel their responsibility and privilege, and be willing to be used by the Lord according to his will. A living ministry is of the greatest importance in every meeting, but it does not necessarily come through an acknowledged minister.

In the work of building up a

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church, too much importance cannot be attached to the training of the children. Let them be brought to our meetings, both for worship and discipline and to be made to feel that the meetings are not dull but happy places.

Let us be careful also to sympathize with each other's gifts and service. Our sympathy should not only be passive, but active, not silent, but out-spoken so that those around us may realize and be benefitted by it.

Our gifts have a two-fold aspect. They are for God and for men. We are to be like Israel - Princes - having power with God and with men, and prevailing. "God hath not given unto us the spirit of fear, but of love and of power, and of a sound mind." As He hath put all things under the feet of the Lord Jesus, so will He, as we become united to Him, put all things that would interfere with our experience or service under our feet. Let us recognize our two-fold power - power with God in prayer - especially united