

Minutes
of
advice

by the Spirit. The Lord will guide not only to the thought, but to the expression of it, and what is fresh is more likely to be effective.

A meeting really held under the immediate guidance of the Lord, and in his power, must be the best adapted to the needs of the congregation. We cannot read another's heart, but the Lord can. The message which is sent by Him must reach home. Are our meetings powerful, as theoretically they should be? Let us beware, lest in maintaining the theory, we are satisfied without the power. Enter the meetings free either for silence or vocal exercise, as the Lord may direct, knowing that whichever He calls for is the best.

The life of a Christian is a natural life, and the question of guidance in meetings is not unlike the question of guidance out of them. Our whole lives are to be under the direction of the Lord, and we are to learn to know his voice at all times. We are to regard our meetings for worship, both as seasons of refreshment for ourselves in the presence of the Lord, and as opportunities of blessing to others, and we are to be careful not to become spiritually selfish, forgetting the needs

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of those who are with us who may need help.

While we are endeavoring to advance the Kingdom of Christ on the earth, and to bring many into his fold, let us remember that active service to be healthy must rest upon a basis of ever-deepening experience. Activity is good, but only when behind and through it, is the power and direction of the Lord. We say this to discourage no one. The best way to gain strength is to exercise what we have. Those in the field with the Lord, are safer than those in the camp without Him.

We are poor judges of ourselves as to whether our example is altogether good or not. We earnestly desire that all our service may have the emphatic endorsement of our daily life. Let us be much in prayer and silence before the Lord, that He may teach and purify us, that while we suppose ourselves to be teachers, we may not be found to be stumbling-blocks.

Be earnest to advance the truth and to support our discipline. The first is to proclaim the fullness of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with absolute obedience to His teachings; the second is not only to avoid the breaking of outward rules of discipline, but to live and carry on our work in accord