

In looking for our objectives, there are three directions in which we must look: UPWARD - INWARD - OUTWARD.

UPWARD - Let us look upward to see what should be our purpose or ideal to be reached with reference to our fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

INWARD - Let us look inward to see what is to be accomplished within our souls as individuals in the way of development. The first cry of the soul is for knowledge. Another cry that we hear from within is that we might be counted worthy by Him who is righteous. We hear a cry from within that our faith be increased. Shall we not aim to satisfy it?

OUTWARD - If we look outward, we shall find our true objective as a church. A church which does not lift its eyes upon the fields that are white unto the harvest is worthless as an aggressive force to God. The entire membership of such a church might as well die and go on to heaven for they mean nothing to earth. They are a dead weight to God. All that we are, all that we may become, and all that God may do for us must be dedicated to meet the outward challenge, which faces the church today. Isn't God saying to us today, even as He did to the people of Peter's day, "But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who calls you out of darkness into this marvelous light." We are what we are for a purpose. Do what we may for ourselves, it is in vain unless God can do with us as He pleases. In large letters, I would write upon the heart of every church member - BE STRONG, WE ARE NOT HERE TO PLAY, TO DREAM, TO DRIFT. WE HAVE HARD WORK TO DO AND LOADS TO LIFT. SHUN NOT THE STRUGGLE - FACE IT IS GOD'S GIFT. BE STRONG.

In our outward look, we must not overlook the challenges close at hand. In our outward look, we must not let our vision fall short of the most distant parts. An ideal involves not only a clear conception of the

of the things or ends desired, but also that efficiency of action by which it is to be realized. If one desires to climb into a window several stories above the ground, he must not only see the window, but he must find a ladder. One without the other is useless. Even so, it is a waste of time for us to visualize the ideal unless we see alike how it is to be realized. Just here, let me register with you once and for all that I am a stickler for any form or method. I am not a stickler for any form or method, but I am a fighter for the desired end. The choice of a road is not so important as the arrival in the city to which one wants to go. How may we do it? First of all, there must be leadership. No organization has succeeded without leadership. The church is no exception. Let us get the proper conception of the pastor's place in a church, what his duties are, and what are his dues. The church calls a man to lead them in spiritual matters. This means a delagation of power. To the Bible we must turn to learn what a minister is. First of all, he is designated as a bishop, one who oversees the flock. He is to keep watch over the people. His mental attitude, study and spiritual preparation fit him for this office. Second, he is, also, called ambassador, one who represents with all necessary credentials one's sovereign power at the court of another. Third, he is called shepherd. Linger here a moment. A shepherd - what suggestion? A leader, not a driver. One provides for the essentials of life, one who protects and shields, one who ministers to the bruised ones and carries in his arms the helpless. The inferences that those whom He leads are sheep. A shepherd would be powerless to perform his duties if he were given mules instead of sheep, or if he were given hogs instead of sheep, or if he were given wolves instead of sheep. The duties that a pastor serves as a shepherd are not more imperative than that his people be sheep. God does not expect the shepherd to anoint the bruised places on a mule, or lie down with wolves,

or to go before hogs. He is also called a steward of the mysteries of God. Paul spoke of the grace of God which had been given to him for the Gentiles. It was a grace on the way to the Gentiles and he, himself, was a steward of it. Ministers are stewards of the Gospel, and it is required of stewards that they be faithful. My prayer is that I may ever be able to say with the great Apostle, "That with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you or of man's judgment. Yea, I judge not myself for I know nothing against myself yet am I not hereby justified, but He that judges me is the Lord". From these passages, we must conclude a minister's work is with men, but his responsibility is under God and Him alone. We also see that a minister is depended upon those whom he leads for volunteer service and obedience. He is not given any power of any kind to force men to follow him, indeed, he needs none for the purpose for which he was appointed. Christians follow because they are sheep, because they know their shepherd's voice. The coercion to follow is found in the nature of the sheep and not in the power of the shepherd. The biggest monstrosity on earth is a church boss in a Baptist church, whether he be a tyrannical preacher or short-horn deacon. The very minute that one aspires to be a church boss, he becomes possessed of a motive which unfits him for the service in the kingdom of God. This fact leads us instantly to the next essential to success in Kingdom work. Willing cooperation on the part of all. The very genius of our faith makes it necessary, where moral issues are not involved, for the balance of the power to rest with the majority. Although I am the chosen leader of this organization, I give you my hand this day in token of my sincere purpose to march abreast without complaint with the majority of my brethren, unless it is a clear case of the majority being in the wrong. No trifle will separate me from this, but I am going to say this in the providence of God that certain men have been called to the ministry and certain preparation has been provided for them to fit them for the places of leadership in the kingdom of God. A preparation

which fits them for their duties just as preparation in a medical institution. When a pastor and people rightly understand both their separate task and joint task and then determine by all authority, both in heaven and in earth to perform their duties, no power on earth or in the waters under the earth can stop them. Determination is an essential to success. Napoleon said that he saw no difficulties after he fixed his eyes upon his objective. Listen! There stood on the eastern hills of Jerusalem from 1000 B.C. to 588 B. C. the most magnificent building ever erected upon this earth. The building for which David collected silver and gold was alone twenty-four hundred and fifty million dollars. A building which was the approach of a nation to their God. Do you ask how it is possible to realize such an achievement? The explanation is found in the testimony of Solomon, " I purpose to build a house for the name of Jehovah my God". And the last word, I mention one other essential to the success of our program - a wholehearted dedication of all under the cause of our Christ.