

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

*...."This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success"....
Joshua 1:8 NASB*

June 13th

STAND

[part 12 of 21]

* 'The Son can do nothing of himself.' How often in the book of the Acts we find the Holy Spirit's prohibitions! We read in chapter 16 how Paul and those with him were 'forbidden of the Holy Ghost to speak the word in Asia'. And again: 'The Spirit of Jesus suffered them not.' Yet this book is the book of the acts of the Holy Spirit, not of His 'inactivities'.

Too often we think that the actual doing is what matters. We have to learn the lesson of not doing-of keeping quiet for Him. We have to learn that if God does not move we dare not move. When we have learned this, then it is that He can safely send us forth to speak for Him. I must have, therefore, a knowledge of God's will in my particular sphere of work. Out of that knowledge only should the work be initiated. The abiding principle of all true Christian work is: 'In the beginning God ... '

Thirdly, all work to be effective must depend for its continuance upon the power of God alone. What is power? We often use the word loosely. We say of a man, 'He is a very powerful speaker', but we have to ask ourselves the question: What power is he using? Is it spiritual power or is it natural power? There is today all too much place given to the power of nature in the service of God. We have got to learn that, even where God has initiated a work, if we are trying to accomplish it in our own power God will never commit Himself to it.

You ask me what I mean by natural power. Put very simply, it is what we can do without the help of God. We give a man the task of organizing something - of planning a Gospel campaign or some other Christian activity - because he is naturally a good organizer. But if that is so, how hard will he pray? If he is accustomed to depend on his natural gifts, he may feel no need to cry to God. The

trouble with us all is that there are so many things we can do without relying upon God. We must be brought to the place where, naturally gifted though we may be, we dare not act, we dare not speak, except in conscious and continual dependence on Him.