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God's fellow labourers

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"God's fellow-labourners."

Our connection with this school presupposes that God has spoken to us in a peculiar manner. He hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. As we face this awfully responsible work, or shutting out the objective & confirming our view to the subjective phase of the work, or the narrow or still more consider the work of preparation alone, are we not compelled to fall back upon something that is fundamental for our inspiration? From our Lord's instructions to the
disciples on the evening of the Last Supper in regard to a preparation for their going forth, we understand that a special preparation is necessary in order to meet this call, namely that one qualify himself to render his best service. Which implies (1) that he must so develop his physical powers as to be able to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. How many saints have this kind of perseverance?

Again (2) he must do discipline and trim his
mind, as to be able to open his mouth with sound speech such as cannot be condemned.

3. He should so perfect his moral nature that none can say an evil thing against him. He will be able to defy criticism.

Paul's advice to Titus is in point, "Let no man despise thee."

4. He will cultivate that spirituality which will fit him for a teacher and leader of all the people.

Amid his arduous labor is it not plain that a preacher needs a source of inspiration to which he may recur by day and by night? Is it
and proper that we should thoughtfully, candidly, prayerfully examine the motives that have and do impel our lives, and consider one that has been prominent in the history of God's most com-ely servants. Few, if any, will claim that either of the selfish motives—the hope of future rewards, or fear of final punishment—or that the springing from a sense of obligation to the Creator leads men to their touch him. There is one that will—i.e. comes to the man who realizes that he is working
for and with God.

While the call to the ministry should be the deepest conviction of the soul that engages in this work, such soul can only attain its highest usefulness by an equally profound realization of its exalted mission. That is by a true appreciation that he is "a co-worker with God." This we hold is the mightiest motive that can sway a human life.

Let us look at the probable fruits of such a belief. First we call attention to its tendency to free
one from laziness, which is a
kind of drugg in among the
ministry of today, and quite
brings the contempt of Martin
in every department of life
upon the average religious
teacher. Second - it will
fire the soul of with an
enthusiasm that will excite
catchy flowers, arouse plumb-
ing energies, and quicken the
whole being with an unknown
life. How shall we account
for the wondrous life I work
of the saint of Orleans, un-
ders we believe she was in
paine in his conviction
that she was in league
with divine power, and under the guidance of Heaven's \_\_
King though we the reality of any such relationship.
Who can explain the marvelous career of Mohammed
and its miraculous results, otherwise than to accept
that he too was honest in his belief that he was the
prophet of the one true God?
But thereby all will admit that his conviction
will have a strong tendency to make a man true.
Forthwith it will give an intensity to his life
that will be felt by all
who come in contact with him. What was it that gave such power to the prophets, and Apostles of Christ's Church, What makes the lives of Moses and Paul stand out in universal history as that the men of all time, and the intensity of those lives? See Moses talking face to face with God, pleading for his presence in the Camp of Israel, and his leadership on the march, actually refusing to go on-ward unless God will accompany them.
Paul's writings show how highly he valued love as a motivating power. Several times he refers to the dignity of his work as a "coworker, a laborer together with," (2Co. 6). And we also see it recognized by other of the apostles, both by those who walked with the Lord in the days of his flesh, and those of later periods, who have gone out through all the earth. What other consideration will so excite desire for a pure, strong and noble manhood, as the thought that we are thus associated
with the Holy One?

We are led to conclude that only as a preacher of the Gospel is preserved by His conviction, and guided by its inspirations will he approach his best life.