

HELP OFFERED BY SPIRIT IS THEME OF CARRIER SERMON

"The Spirit Also Helpeth," was the subject chosen by Rev. Dr. W. O. Carrier, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian church, for his message to his congregation yesterday morning.

Taking as a text, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God,"—Romans, 8:16—the pastor delivered a convincing argument of the help, the comfort and the immeasurable assistance rendered the human spirit by the divine spirit.

"All of us," said Dr. Carrier, "try to meet life with courage. All of us laud and admire the brave, courageous deeds of a hero, conscious as we are of our own weakness and unworthiness, and it is in these moments of weakness, of discouragement, of appreciation of our own inadequateness; that the Holy Spirit comes to us as comforter, as helper.

"I will frankly admit that I do not and never have understood exactly what is meant by the trinity. Famous theologians have written volumes and have exhausted the fountains of argument concerning this matter. For me there is but one God, three ways—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I don't believe the man who says he don't believe in God. I don't believe the man lives in this enlightened day who can honestly and truthfully, deep down from the inmost depth of his heart, proclaim the non-existence of some sort of God. The old argument advanced that one cannot believe in that which is neither visible nor audible to human kind is proven fallacious in hundreds of ways in our everyday life. Electricity, the marvel of modern civilization, the uses of which have and do mean so much to almost every phase of industrial life, cannot be seen, cannot be heard. Noted scientists who have devoted years of study and research to this wonderful power admit they do not know what it is. They know how it acts under given circumstances, what can be accomplished with it, but here their knowledge ceases. The same is true of the power of gravitation. We cannot see or hear it, but we are constantly under its influence, ever aware of its power. And thus, while we cannot see God, His actuality, His presence, His power are constantly being manifested in so many ways that no intelligent person can doubt His existence."

Here, Dr. Carrier quoted from St. John, 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." The pastor explained that the word "Comforter" as used in this verse was made under other translation "Helper." The original Hebrew word, he said, was translated into the Greek as "Paraclete," and he expressed the opinion that this word should have been allowed to stand as originally written; just as were the terms "Jehovah" and "hallelujah." He gave as his reason that neither of the words used by the translators seemed to express the various shades of meaning as did the original word, and that it should have been allowed to stand.

Paraphrasing his argument as to the omnipresence of the Holy Spirit in the human life as comforter and helper, the pastor drew an illustration of a street car drawn along the level streets of a city by two horses, but at one place, where a steep hill was encountered, was stationed another horse, whose assistance was necessary in enabling the regular team to draw the car past this point in the same manner," he said, "the Spirit of God is always ready, always winning and always present to help us in our infirmities, to boost us past the weak points of our life."

Then turning to the question of locating the intervention and help or comfort of the Holy Spirit in human lives, the pastor said:

"God teaches us how to pray. Nothing in life is so simple nor yet so complicated as prayer. Some approach the throne in the spirit of demanding what they want, in the feeling that if they are denied they will have done with prayer as useless. What would you think of a beggar who solicited alms from you and accompanied his request with a threat that if you refused him, he would never ask again? Surely you would consider it absurd. Then some, through lack of understanding and knowledge may pray for those things which God, in His infinite wisdom, knows is not best for them, and so refuses to grant. Many a boy has gone to his father and urged that he be allowed to possess a gun—a deadly weapon. You know, most boys, even before they are old enough to use discretion, want a gun. The father refuses the request. The boy, through his ignorance of the danger involved, pleads: 'But you love me, father; you are able to buy me the gun; why not give me one?' And so it is with the human heart that appeals to God for things which it desires and cannot understand why they are withheld.

"You and I look at life not in an understanding way. We cannot see it, as God sees it, as a completed entity. For instance, a friend invites you to go with him to where he is having a house built. He tells you what a beautiful place it will be when completed. You see only a pile of bricks here, stacks of lumber there, a few trenches dug—merely a mass of materials, without form or coordination; and you marvel at his enthusiasm over his new home. But finally he shows you the drawings and plans for the completed house, and then you begin to realize what a thing of beauty and completeness can be created from these unassembled materials you have seen on the ground. And so with my life, and yours. God has the plans, and He has the will and the power to put together the various materials which our lives present into a beautiful whole. Is it not better that we should trust Him to say how we should use the materials we have?"

Dr. Carrier asserted that he believed it was the right of every person to pray for the intervention and sustaining power of the Comforter under any and all circumstances when the conviction that the granting of the prayer was justifiable. He stated he believed that one should pray for his business, if such was conducted in the spirit of acting as a steward of God, and he related an instance coming under his personal supervision where a noted banker, a devout man of God, had averted a serious certain disaster to his business through an all-night appeal to the throne of grace.

In closing his sermon the pastor drew a beautiful illustration point-

ing his contention of the ever-present, ever-working influence of the divine Helper and Comforter in the human heart and life.

"I once visited a friend of mine in a laboratory at college," said Dr. Carrier. There he exhibited to me a glass tube, and suspended in the tube was a metal key. There seemed to be no support for the key either above or below, but turn the tube as you might the key maintained its position equidistant from the ends of the tube. My friend was in great glow over my puzzled examination of the apparent phenomena and jokingly claimed to have performed a miracle. At last however, upon a closer examination, I found that the key was attached to the bottom of the tube by a fine platinum wire, so small as to be invisible except upon very close scrutiny, while concealed in the other end of the tube was a small magnet which of course drew the key as far as the wire would permit. As with that key, so with the human life. So long as it is anchored to the world, through the present existence, just so long is the powerful magnet, the Holy Spirit, drawing it ever upward toward that completeness and fullness of the life everlasting and the kingdom of God. And so the Lord has said unto you and unto me and unto every living creature, 'So I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth.'"