

Torrey, he said, "Torrey, do you realize that you and I are the two most effective men in Christian service in America today?" Dr. Torrey said he turned to the man and he said, "Don't you say a thing like that." He said, "Don't you even think it." He said, "If any one of us gets an idea that the work of the Lord can't go on without us," he said, "God can lay us on the shelf so quickly we won't know what's happening." He said, "We must pray God to keep our eyes on Him and to see our weakness and our deficiencies, and that it is only God's grace that He uses any of us." And Dr. Torrey said within two years after that that man was laid on the shelf so completely that five years later practically everybody had forgotten him. God cannot use us if we become puffed up in our own pride and think that we are something in ourselves. We must have a vision of God, but we must have a vision of ourselves and see that we are men of unclean lips, and we dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. That we are unworthy of serving the Lord. That we are unable to serve Him in any satisfactory way as far as we are concerned; that He must work a miracle if He is going to use us in any effective way. A vision of our own sin, a vision of our own unworthiness.

I remember Dr. Torrey telling me one time, he said, "You know," he said, "I like personal work much better than preaching." He said, "The reason is this." He said, "In a sermon I point out some ~~shortcoming~~ deficiency, some weakness, and I point out God's judgment upon us and," he said, "the people in the front row take it and they pass it to the row in back of them." And he said, "The ones there take it and they pass it to the ones back of them. And," he said, "they pass it on and they think how wonderful ^{he} it is telling this; so and so needs it. And," he said, "if you are just talking to one person they can't push it away from them. They know that you are talking to them." He said to me, he said, "One time I preached at a place where there was a man who was a terrible hindrance to the work of Christ and I had heard about it, and I know how this man who professed to be such a fine Christian was doing so much that was hindering the work of Christ. And," he said, "I took all the stories this man had and I put them into a sermon and I presented ^{it} them in such a way that I just prayed the Spirit of God to take it and to convict the man and show him how he could be one who would be effective for Christ instead of injuring the cause of our Lord. And," he said, "I preached the sermon and when the service was over the man came up toward me and he was all excited and," he said, "I almost began to think the man was going to hit me for what I had said. And," he said, "he came up toward me and he looked so excited," he said, "I ^{was beginning} began to be a little afraid. I thought, Have I made it too direct, too definite, too specific, what I said? But," he said, "when the man got closer I saw that the look on his face was not a look of anger at all. ^{And} But," he said, "he stepped up to me and he said, 'Oh, that was the most wonderful sermon I ever heard.' He said, 'Will you permit me to pay the cost of putting that in pamphlet form?' He said, 'I know so many people who need what you ^{gave} said in that sermon and it would be just wonderful to get that mes-