

## ***“Leadership; God’s gift to His church”***

Pastor Derek Melton

[www.pryorcreekcommunitychurch.org](http://www.pryorcreekcommunitychurch.org)

Spiritual leadership is not won by promotion, but by prayers and tears. It is attained by much heart-searching and humbling before God; by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold uncompromising, and uncomplaining embracing of the cross, and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. This is a great price, but it must be unflinchingly paid by him who would be a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth and in hell. Samuel Brengle

It is my desire to present basic Kingdom leadership principles to us over the next several weeks for the purpose of helping each of us, as leaders in the field of harvest, to become equipped with powerful Truth that we might serve our God and His people with greater purpose and effectiveness. These messages are not targeted towards key leadership roles alone, but to all of those who are washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ and who bear His Name.

One of the most important truths I want you to grasp is that leadership is not exclusive to Pastors, Elders, and Deacons. Each one of us have been called unto roles of leadership in the body of Christ by the “*now go ye*” mandate. I’m quite aware that many of you here are not in pastoral leadership but I believe that you will greatly profit by the Word of God to become a follower of Jesus Christ, equipped with biblical knowledge about leading in the Kingdom of God.

It is not my intention to weigh us down with deep theological ideas regarding leadership, but to simply give sound and fundamental truths regarding leadership that come from our Bibles. My hopes are that some of our wrongful or cultural ideas regarding leadership will be redefined by biblical truth.

### **Exodus 4:10-12**

*Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." NKJV*

The most thrown around statement regarding leadership is the proverbial “*I do not have anything to offer*” statement. It is not uncommon and its roots transcend the modern age. The fact of the matter is that none of us have anything to offer anyone, much less God. Yet, we see God sovereignly decreeing to facilitate man to carry out His decrees upon earth. God could have chosen any means to fulfill His plans and desires regarding the Kingdoms of the Earth but the means chosen by sovereign election is redeemed man.

### **Amos 3:7**

*“Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” NKJV*

It is also important that we understand the calling of God to leadership. God does not call the extraordinary but the very ordinary to leadership. Most often we do not feel that we are qualified but it is not the qualified that God calls but God qualifies those who He calls. The system of the world and even the religious world uses the basis of qualification for their choice but God is not their God and His ways are foolishness to them.

In the Kingdom of God it is the sovereign prerogative of God to call whom He pleases; and it pleases God to elect the poor and the unlearned – those who have no merit or ability to perform what God has called them unto. Therefore leaders are not chosen because they are able to perform the task but because they are not.

If your heart never asks “*why me?*” you can conclude with precision that God has not called you unto leadership. Yet, if your heart is overwhelmed with a sense of inability, challenging your own qualifications and worth to engage such a heavenly vocation, you are quite similar to those that our Lord has chosen and used for His glory throughout His Word.

This passage in Exodus 4 shows the response of Moses to the heavenly call of God; I am slow of speech, slow of tongue, nor eloquent. God was not looking for an orator to procure His purposes for Israel but a man who would rely upon God to say and to do that which He had decreed and purposed.

God is not looking for talent, gift, ability, or qualifications in you to procure His perfect plan – but weakness, lack, awkwardness, and inability. Yet, in these weaknesses and lacks He is looking for a heart that is committed unto Him.

## **2 Chronicles 16:9**

*“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...” KJV*

That word “*perfect*” can be misleading because we identify perfection or without any moral blemish or fault with the word. Yet, in the Hebrew it means: “*made ready*” or “*complete*”, or “*especially friendly*”. This Hebrew word gives no reference to perfection; but to commitment, preparation, and friendly. This is the heart that yearns to know God and is steeped in commitment unto Him.

## **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

*“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” NKJV*

We disqualify ourselves from leadership because we measure our abilities by our qualifications. God does not elect leaders based upon abilities that we do or do not possess but upon the hearts of those who are committed unto Him. I don’t want to give the idea that God only bases His call for leaders upon their lack of qualifications for the call because this is not true. There are those who have no qualifications for the call in their natural estate but their hearts are not perfect before the Lord.

## **1 Chronicles 28:9-10**

*“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal (perfect KJV) heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.” NKJV*

## **1 Kings 11:4**

*“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.” NKJV*

So the theme of this message is that our hearts must be committed to the Lord if we are to be used of the Lord in leadership. The primary quality that our Lord is searching for in His leaders is a heart that is perfect or loyal to Him. It is not our noble birth, nor is it our learning and natural ability; our Lord considers these not! The Lord searches the heart to see who will be loyal to Him.

There are some of you here tonight that wrestle with the thought; “*what do I have to offer the Lord to be used of Him?*” and this question is invalid. He is not looking for what you have to offer but only that which He can claim and use; a heart that is loyal to Him. There are fears that you face that you have

nothing to offer, nothing that God can use. Yet, these fears are unqualified, although normal. It is your loyal heart to our Lord that qualifies you in His eyes.

Don't assume you have to be extraordinary to be used by God. You don't have to have exceptional gifts, talents, abilities, or connections. God specializes in using ordinary people whose limitations and weaknesses make them ideal showcases for His greatness and glory (1 Cor. 1:26-29). Nancy Leigh DeMoss

You may see yourself as the least in your tribe, house, and family – but the Lord examines the heart and He may just see you as a mighty man of valor. The key quality for a leader in the Kingdom of God is a loyal heart before Him.

In the ministry that our Lord has set before us, who among us can boast of being qualified to reach the multitudes of at-risk youth that come through these doors? Who can relate to them? Who among us in the eyes of the world has the qualifications fit to offer them any solution or help with their broken lives? Who among us holds certificates of divinity from accredited institutions which are applauded and accepted by the world or even religious society?

Who in the eyes of the world are qualified to teach the children, who is qualified to train our teenagers, who is qualified to preach and teach the Word of God amongst us in this local body with approved and accredited learning accomplishments? Who has the natural ability to lead, who has the angelic voices, who has the oratory perfection among us?

Yet, who among us have a heart after God? Who among us love Him and who are committed to the person of Jesus Christ? Who are repentant, sorrowful regarding sin, trembling at His Word, shouldering their heavy Crosses, denying yourself of comforts, acceptance, glory, and the American dream that you might win Christ?

These are those among us that God can use in leadership. Beloved, leadership without an unwavering commitment to the person of Jesus Christ is not biblical leadership; it is worldly and cannot be ordained of God. This kind of leader leads in a way not purposed by God nor can it be for this leader does not know the voice of the Lord – and most often leads his following down paths that benefit him and glorify him.

Crucified believers are the vessels of honor that our Lord uses to demonstrate His power and glory. When a leader releases himself from the Cross, he soon leads his following to himself and not to the purposes of God. The Cross is mandatory for every believer, yet, how much more for those who are in leadership? The Cross puts to death our acceptance of what does not belong to us; it puts to death the frustrations common to leaders; it puts to death offenses and complaints; it puts to death thoughts of superiority and humbles us a servant.

Think not that you are a leader in the Army of God if others are bearing your Cross. Think not that you are a leader in the Army of God if you are waiting to be served and not to serve. Think not that you are a leader in the Army of God if you maintain your rights, your life, your dreams, your hopes, and your goals. These must be crucified daily if you are to lead in God's Army. We were not noble when He called us, but we cannot but be noble as He leads us!

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!  
Refrain:  
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;  
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;  
brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.  
(Refrain)
3. Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.  
(Refrain)
4. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.  
(Refrain)
5. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages men and angels sing.  
(Refrain)

Don't ever forget that you cannot do what God has called you to do. You cannot parent that child, love that husband, care for that elderly parent, submit to that boss, teach that Sunday school class, or lead that small-group Bible study. God specializes in the impossible, so that when the victory is won and the task is complete, we cannot take any credit. Others know we didn't do it, and we know we didn't do it. We must always remember that we can only live the Christian life and serve God through the power of His Holy Spirit. As soon as we think we can handle it on our own, we become useless to Him. We have to be willing to get out of the way, let God take over, and let Him overshadow us. Nancy Leigh DeMoss

## **Leadership; God's gift to the church Part II**

My calling is sure. My challenge is big. My vision is clear. My desire is strong. My influence is eternal. My impact is critical. My values are solid. My faith is tough. My mission is urgent. My purpose is unmistakable. My direction is forward. My heart is genuine. My strength is supernatural. My reward is promised. And my God is real. I refuse to be dismayed, disengaged, disgruntled, discouraged, or distracted. Neither will I look back, stand back, fall back, go back or sit back. I do not need applause, flattery, adulation, prestige, stature or veneration. I have no time for business as usual, mediocre standards, small thinking, normal expectations, average results, ordinary ideas, petty disputes or low

vision. I will not give up, give in, bail out, lie down, turn over, quit or surrender. I am a minister. That is what I do. **Author Unknown**

### **Matthew 20:25-28**

*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." NKJV*

Ministry that costs nothing, accomplishes nothing. **John Henry Jowett**

Although mighty authority accompanies the call of God upon a leader, we would be gravely mistaken to believe this authority is to govern people. In fact, not only will you be disappointed if this is your idealism, you will be destroyed.

Servant-hood does not nullify leadership; it defines it. Jesus does not cease to be the Lion of Judah when He becomes the lamblike servant of the church. **John Piper**

One of the most imperative qualifications of a godly leader is their utter denial of self and the utter hyper-value they place upon others. One of the most tempting of Satan's temptations is that we can use the authority given by God to lead – to lord. It is the manipulation of the gift of God rendering it to your own service and not towards the service of the flock of God.

There is always a God given authority proportionate to the calling He gives, but we must understand the purpose for the authority. This authority is purposed to endue with power to serve, and serving procures the calling of God. We see that our Lord set aside His sovereign royalty and served mankind while He was flesh and blood.

### **Philippians 2:5-8**

*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." KJV*

The call of God upon our lives will never be accomplished without a servant's heart and corresponding actions. This is more than a mood that serves based upon circumstance or convenience. True leadership is marked by a sacrificial servant-hood that varies not by circumstance or mood but is deeply rooted in the Person of Jesus Christ. Not service based upon convenience, but born of the Cross of Christ.

Beloved, think not that you will be able to retain your life and be used of God in His glorious service! The enormity of the call of God swallows your total life; it requires it, it transforms it! There are always losses and gains when you shoulder this Cross. Your identity, your popularity, your freedoms are traded for glorious chains to become a heavenly prisoner.

### **2 Timothy 1:8-9**

*"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began," NKJV*

A leader must have a servant's heart. And if he has a servant's heart, he will act like a servant and react like a servant when he is treated like a servant. **Wayne Mack**

A true servant does indeed act like a servant when he/she is treated like a servant. Think not that you will be treated as royalty as you serve and lead. No, you will be treated any different than your Lord. As you are loosing your life, you will be ridiculed, mistreated, lied about, abused, slandered, attacked, and demeaned. Yet, as a servant, we do not retaliate, nor do we defend ourselves; we simply continue serving. Another imperative principle within leadership is our motive. As leaders in this heavenly Kingdom we must know that we do all that we do for the King of the Kingdom and His glory. Truly we are serving the King as we are serving His people. We must always remember we are gifts from Him, and for Him and any yearning in our hearts for recognition or reward from man is an inordinate yearning; it must go to the Cross.

One of the benefits of fasting from food is that it teaches us to suffer discomfort while engaging in spiritual matters. It is not that our suffering procures heavenly gain, but there is a beneficial truth that is taught, discomfort is part of the productive Kingdom life and fasting helps us to learn to acclimate to distressed conditions while attending heavenly business. Of course there are other and more important facets of fasting but this truth cannot be ignored.

Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God. **Andrew Murray**

One translation says that we are to “arm ourselves” with this same mind that Jesus Christ had in regards to suffering:

### **1 Peter 4:1-3**

*“So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning. And you won't spend the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.” NLT*

The heart of a servant is prepared for suffering, discomfort, arduous labors, difficulties, slanders, mistreatments, and even to die if needs be. This heavenly calling is requiring, it cannot be accomplished without cost; perpetual and permanent cost. The life of the servant is sacrificial, continually. There is never a time in true ministry leadership that the mantle of hardship, suffering, and cost is un-mantled. There are seasons of rest periodically, but mostly powerful grace to endure to the end.

In Bunyan's immortal Pilgrim's Progress, Christian faces the hill of difficulty and sings this poem:

This *Hill*, though high, I covet to ascend,  
The difficulty will not me offend:  
For I perceive the way to life lies here;  
Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear:  
Better, though difficult, the right way to go,  
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.

Sacrifice, commitment, and servant-hood, are diadems that must always adorn the true Christian leader's character. Without them the hopeful leader will undo and diminish what he/she has set out to do and accomplish. The cultivation of these attributes and the cultivation of leadership cannot be separated. If we, as leaders, are not willing to lay down our lives – in love – for the sheep, we cannot be a shepherd (a leader). The picking up of the laid down life is a mortal wound to every sheep under our guidance and care.

Oh beloved, hear this plea, surrender your lives to this high-calling of surrender, sacrifice, commitment, and servant-hood. Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus; let us arm our minds to suffer loss; let us loose our lives together; and take heaven by storm.

My eyes are fixed, my gait is set  
My loss is but gain, so needs can be met.  
My Cross on my back, His burden I share,  
Honor's my Lord, Who has called me there.

Tho my way be troubled, my Cross hard to carry,  
By His grace I'll not faint, when He's bid me to tarry.  
Through years in this stead, my heart will not falter,  
With a life that is lost, laid upon His altar.

With nights on my knees, and my days filled with labor,  
From my mouth calls the Gospel, to rescue my neighbor.  
Tho mocked and scorned, my name put to shame,  
There's hell to shun, and heaven to gain.

Yet, as I draw, life's precious last breath,  
I will not fear the voices of death.  
While others loose the life that they saved  
This life that I lost, will be given in that day. (D. Melton 2010)

### **Leadership; God's gift to the church Pt. III**

Jesus has many who love his kingdom in heaven, but few who bear his cross. He has many who desire comfort, but few who desire suffering. He finds many to share his feast, but few his fasting. All desire to rejoice with him, but few are willing to suffer for his sake. Many follow Jesus to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the cup of his passion. Many admire the miracles but few follow him to the humiliation of his cross. Many love Jesus as long as no hardship touches them....They who love Jesus for His own sake, and not for the sake of the comfort for themselves, bless Him in every trial and anguish of heart, no less than in the greatest joy. And were He never willing to bestow comfort on them, they would still always praise Him and give Him thanks.

Thomas a Kempis

The most important principle of leadership in the Kingdom of God is our nearness to and intimacy with Jesus Christ. All vital or effective ministry is born out of a personal nearness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Any ministry that comes from any other source or principal is not nor can it be effective. Moreover, any attempt to conduct business for our Master that is not born out of intimacy with our Master is merely religious externalism and humanistic in origin.

Ministry is the work of heaven that is carried out on earth. This work is within the heart of man and it is a miraculous work and must be born of the Spirit of God and continued by the Spirit of God. Any true work in the ministry has been born of the Spirit of God and is released through men and women of God that know Him and live to do His will.

## **Philippians 3:8-11**

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. KJV*

These passages hold the key to effective leadership and ministry. The counting all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus is paramount. Beloved, as leaders, if our lives are not set apart wholly unto Jesus Christ to be a vessel absorbed by His will, we will only frustrate the lives of those we are set out to help or to serve. The life that is set apart must be set apart wholly and not partially. I am not speaking of occupationally set apart, but intimately set apart. This is a separation that is wholly inclusive – whereby the lifestyle is absorbed by their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ in abundant relational love.

The ministry is not a profession, nor a professional engagement; it is a high calling! Although education is good it is not the hinge upon which ministry swings. Many religious societies are insistent upon educational requirements and intellectual abilities but these are not biblical mandates for the call of the minister. You can educate the mind in biblical matters, you can learn Hebrew and master the language of the Greeks, but be dead in your sin and incapable of depositing any divine life in others.

The Apostle counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Oh beloved, this is the key of effective ministry. The Apostle's learning, albeit intense and elite, was considered but dung in comparison to the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. It was not the Apostle's oratory abilities, nor was it his great learning that made his ministry effective. He had achieved academic excellence before his conversion! It was exposure to the Person of Jesus Christ – and his willful response to His plans and purposes that acted as a catalyst to powerful ministry.

## **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

*“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”  
KJV*

This demonstration of the Spirit and of power that was evidenced in the Apostle's ministry was purely relational. It was as if the Apostle was saying; *“the wisdom and education that I had accrued in the best Jewish institutions were not a part of what I gave you. I gave you what I was given by Jesus Christ; the gloriously radiant power of God.”*

It's not the imitation of Christ that you and I need, it's an impartation of Christ (that we need). Christ in you the hope of glory. Ravenhill.

The power of God in our lives is absolutely necessary if those that hear us are to experience God's power. The Apostle said: *“that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”* Biblical knowledge is very important to effective ministry but it is not most important; intimacy with Jesus Christ and relational grace is.

There is no substitute for the power of the Spirit of God in ministry. There is no substitute for prayer if we're to experience the power of God in our ministries. Prayer is not the cause of intimacy with Christ but the effect of it. The cause of intimacy is grace and the evidence of it is prayer. The cordial grace of God seizes the heart and nurtures it in the loving intimacy. The effect of this intimacy is a prayer life that flows unceasingly from a heart that cannot nor will it slow the rhythms of its passion and fervor. The greatest men used of God have had hearts ablaze in fervent prayer. Yet, this prayer life was only an expression of the intimacy ratified by relational grace.

What our generation needs are men and women that know their God, men and women that spend time alone with Him in prayer, and come forth demonstrating His power.

The world out there is not waiting for a new definition of Christianity; it's waiting for a new demonstration of Christianity. Ravenhill

The depth or the effect of our ministry will be proportionate to power of God at work in our lives. We cannot deliver what we do not possess ourselves. Our enticing words and our knowledge about God will not measure up against the forces of darkness that hold this world in chains.

Yet, these forces cannot withstand a demonstration of the Spirit and the power of God that emanates from those who are wholly at God's disposal. The greatest service we can give our generation is not the service we can give them – but the intimacy we engage with our God.

They are not leaders because of brilliancy...but because, by the power of prayer, they could command the power of God. **E.M. Bounds**

Prayer is the acid test of devotion. **Samuel Chadwick**

### **Daniel 11:32**

*"...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." NKJV*

I want to challenge us to step up in commitment to prayer and intimacy with Christ. Not for the purpose of having greater ministries or greater effectiveness, but solely for the purpose of the glory of God. Yet, as we purpose in our hearts to glorify God by commitment to Him, and fellowship with Him, ministry changes simply because He is changing us.

The transformation of ministry is in proportion to the transformation within us. Once again, if we set our hearts to draw closer to Christ so we might be more successful in ministry, we will fail. This Martha mentality profits no one – other than your ego. I cannot stress this enough, or only motive is to know Him. Once again, our only motive is to know Him.

Paul said: *"I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ"*. This includes successful ministry. If you never ministered again, would you be content with Christ alone? If no one was to ever find out, or to know how pious you've become, if you never preached a sermon, if you never witnessed to another human being, would knowing Jesus Christ satisfy you?

My challenge is for us to loose ourselves, and to gain Christ. We must open our Bibles, close our closet doors, and learn Christ by the means He has chosen. If we do not possess Christ, we are only giving the lost what they already possess. It is not your enthusiasm that will free their chains, nor is it your theology, nor is it your commitment to ministry, nor is it your love for the lost; it is your possession of Jesus Christ that will break the chains and set the captives free! There is no alternative!!!

Who will suffer with the Savior?  
Take the little that remains  
Of the cup of tribulation  
Jesus drank in dying pains?

Refrain:

Lord, we fellowship Thy passion,  
Gladly suffer shame and loss;  
With Thy blessing pain is pleasure,  
We will glory in Thy cross.  
Who will offer soul and body  
On the altar of our God?  
Leaving self and worldly mammon,  
Take the path that Jesus trod?  
Who will suffer for the gospel,  
Follow Christ without the gate?  
Take the martyrs for example,  
With them glory at the stake?  
Oh, for consecrated service  
'Mid the din of Babel strife;  
Who will dare the truth to herald,  
At the peril of his life?  
Soon the conflict will be over,  
Crowns await the firm and pure;  
Forward, brethren, work and suffer,  
Faithful to the end endure.  
Daniel S. Warner 1890