WRIGHT (FRANK HALL) SERMONS, 1916

Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Hall Wright sermons
Dates: 1916
Accession Number(s): 1996-091
Extent: 2 inches
Language: Materials are written in English.

Full finding aid available here: http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1125

Biographical Note:
Frank Hall Wright (1860-1922) was an evangelist in the western United States.

Scope and Contents:
The Frank Hall Wright Sermons are typed, bound sermons delivered by Wright at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio in January 1916. These sermons were a component of special evangelistic services intended for both Christians and the general public.

Related Collections:
The Arthur Gray Jones papers at the Austin Seminary Archives include letters written by Frank Hall Wright to Arthur Gray Jones from 1915-1916.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Preferred Citation: Frank Hall Wright sermons, 1916, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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The work of the Holy Spirit is in a sense subordinate to the presence of Christ. The Father is head over all, essentially they are one. Jesus says, "My father is greater than I". I say the son is equal to the Father essentially. Same in substance, power and glory.

"He made himself of no reputation". "In the power of the Spirit he went about doing good". So subordinating himself to the Holy Spirit. Jesus shall rule until everything is subjected to him. So that in a sense the Father is subordinate to the Son. The Holy Spirit subordinate to the Father and to the Son. "Tarry ye in Jerusalem until ye receive the promise." The promise was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit controls the work and the workers. There are seven steps that we might mention. All rests upon the finished work of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Confess him. Obey him. Give up every known sin. That we want him. That we ask of him. That we claim him by faith. I pray for the filling of the Spirit. I believe it. My heart rejoices. God is faithful and he will certainly use me as I depend on him. I have no power alone. I could not do any good unless the Spirit of God sees fit to use me. We need the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit then directs us to do the work. The Lord is the head and directs from heaven. --- And believers were added unto the Lord--- Every soul saved is a star in the crown of Jesus. I don't know whether we have any stars in our crowns or not. It is a pretty song. Most folks don't
know what they are singing about anyhow. Just sing on. Just like "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere". It don't get anywhere. I want to know definitely. "Nearer my God to Thee". It left out Jesus Christ. Jesus gets the benefit of every saved sinner. If the work of the church is not for Jesus the Spirit is gone. "It is good for you that I go away. For if I go not the comforter will not not come." I am so glad Jesus Christ went to heaven and that we can not see him. If he were in Jerusalem, a lot of us could never see him. As it is he can come into personal touch with all your souls. He will make you the channels of his grace. I have been preaching to Christian souls because I realize that a Christian is the channel of the Holy Spirit. Who does the work of Jesus? God knows your name. He calls to Peter James and John. It is a grand thing if he knows your name if it is written in heaven. A man once said to me, "Mr. Wright your name is well known in heaven. My mother mentions it every night in her prayer." I hope it is in that book. I think it is there. Why, Because I am worthy? I am just filled with unworthiness. God expects us to honor him by our faith. We are saved by our faith. The Holy Ghost sends men to work. It sends the missionary to China and Japan or anywhere else. It sends different men different ways. We can not send missionaries. Only the Holy Ghost can send a missionary. Your laying hands on don't make men preachers and teachers and elders or deacons; if
the Holy Ghost has not selected that man. Nothing constitutes a man to be a preacher or a missionary unless the Spirit of God has called him to that work. I say he selects the workers. Certain men for certain work. Acts. 20:28. The Holy Ghost makes the overseers and selects elders. Any doctrine that leaves out the blood of Jesus Christ is an insult to God. A great many people want some friend of theirs to be a church elder. And they go around and use political measures in the selection of their elders and deacons. The proper way to do is for the church to get together and pray about it. Let the Spirit of God lay his hand on the man and call him to the work. I once knew a young Irishman. I said "I believe you are called to be a preacher." And he came to my house and we talked it over. Well I was never so glad as I was to take my hands off that man. I sent him to Mr. Moody and he told him he would not make a preacher he had too commercial a conscience. That was a bad mistake. I had best not laid my hands on that man. I had not prayed enough. Let the spirit of God select your elders, your deacons, your preachers, your Sunday School teachers. We have got to get back to the ways of the early church and lean more directly upon God and look to him for guidance. Eph. 4:11 There will never be any more apostles. I will not say that my compatriots lie when they say it. Some times people are mistaken. The Spirit of God makes some men elders, some preachers, some evangelists. Thank God for that. An evangelist is a man who tells the world good news. A publisher of glad tidings. A man who is a missionary is an evangelist.
A man who carries the Gospel to people in regions beyond. I thought when I became an evangelist I would reach the lowest plane. People talk so about the evangelists. Say that he talks froth and emotions. Not everybody is called to be an evangelist. Not all are called to be pastors. I sometimes marvel how men can be pastors. Preach in the same place to the same folks. They have things to bear and do that seem so irksome. But the Lord gives them grace. They have blessings. They have their own home. They can stay in one place and study. The teaching element is strong in their ministry. The idea of a shepherd is there. God says to preach the word of God. It is the Word that the souls need. I don't know a lot about these things. There are a lot of parts that I don't know anything about, and I don't want to talk about them. I have to learn more about them. — That you be grounded in the faith. — That is the reason you have catechism and Bible instruction, so you may be grounded in faith. As Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." If you have the knowledge that you are right with God, it makes you powerful. One time a minister found that his church wanted a little Greek and Latin in their sermons. He didn't know anything about Greek and Latin, but he was a Welshman, and so every time he thought it was about time to use a little Greek he would use a little Welsh instead. And the people couldn't understand the Welsh and they didn't know anything about Greek or Latin. So he thought it was all right. But one day he looked back into his church and saw a Welshman there. That man just laughed every time the minister would use any Welsh.
And when the minister noticed that, he got worried. And the next time he thought it was time to put in a little Greek, he just spoke in Welsh to that man sitting back there laughing at him. He said, "Don't you give me up and after church I will fix it up with you."

Mr. Moody commenced in a little church. He divided the people into sections, and trained them to be personal workers. Each man to work in his own section. Finally he was called to the Moody church of today. They have revivals in that church every Sunday night. Everybody goes there. Saloon keepers, everybody. And they have wonderful revivals. He divided the people into sections to be personal workers there. And if one in a section knew of someone who ought to be saved, it was his business that he brought that man up to the front and to see that he was led to Jesus Christ. There was once a converted Jew in that church and one day he saw a man in his section leave the meeting. And the Jew knew that that man was not saved. He thought it was his duty to talk to that man. So he followed him out and down the street. And the man noticed this and he thought he was being shadowed. And he commenced to walk faster, and the Jew walked faster. And when he slacked up, the Jew would slacken up his pace. Finally they were both running down the street. Like they were going to a fire. And the man fell down and the Jew caught up with him, and he said, "Now won't you surrender to the Lord." And the man was converted.

That is system and efficiency. We don't put enough efficiency into the Lord's work. If anybody is saved in these
meetings it will be done through the efforts of a personal friend in the majority of cases. Billy Sunday was once asked how many of his conversions were the result of personal workers. And he said, ninety percent. If we would only realize that we have something to do. If there is a man you are in doubt about. When you come to church, you invite him along. You sit by that man. I tell you we need system. The Spirit of God gets someone to do the work. May be you have a friend to reach, that nobody else could reach. If we would only realize the responsibility. You can never learn to swim unless you jump into the water. It won't do any good to stand on the bank and shiver, you have got to jump in. You will never learn to do personal work until you jump in and try it. The Spirit of God selects men to do God's work. The obedience is what is needed. It is not an easy thing to do the work. Once we were having a meeting and I knew that there was a certain rich man who I ought to speak to. His wife was a Christian and he came to church with her. The Spirit of God told me to talk to that man. But I thought, "I can do that tomorrow. I waited until after the meeting and still I thought it would be altogether out of keeping to go to a man's house so late at night and speak to him about his soul. The devil is always anxious to tell you when you are going to do something wrong. He said, "You would do more harm than good by doing it now." I listened to that voice. And I actually went to bed and thought I could sleep. But a voice kept getting more insistent. I ought to do it now. And I knew it was up to me. It was real late then. If I had gone right
after the meeting, it would have been better. Now the man would be in bed and most likely be angry when I knocked at his door. You can imagine how I felt going to that rich man's house. These rich men you never know how to approach them. Well I don't know to this day what I said to that man. Only that I was interested in him. That I was anxious about his soul. And I said good night and left him. That man told me afterwards that he thought when I rang his bell that some one was sick or that there was a fire. He said when he got back to bed he thought, "If that man is so interested in me, I am going to hear him out." The Lord gave me that soul for just being obedient in that little act. He wants obedience. Once I was called to a funeral of a young girl. I went to her pastor and asked if that girl had been a Christian. And he said, "I don't know, three weeks I felt called upon to talk to that girl, but I never did it and now I don't know whether she was a Christian or not." I went to the Sunday School teacher and she said, "Three weeks ago, I felt called to talk to her and I did not do it. Now I don't know." I went to the mother and she said, "One week ago I thought I ought to talk to my daughter, but I didn't do it, and now I don't know." Three disobedient souls, a preacher, a Sunday School teacher and a mother. Every one refused obedience. Not one of the m could say if the girl was saved or not. How in the world is the soul going to get interest unless you talk to them. It rests on us Christians to do this business. When you get a call you go out there and do your best. God will bless you for it.
There was once a man who thought he ought to go and talk to a certain man about his soul. So he wrote out a nice speech that he was going to make to this man. And when he got to the man's place of business he forgot every word of that speech. Every blooming word that he had studied and just broke down and cried. He just told him he was interested in his soul and went off. Then he went home and prayed to the Lord, "O Lord I am such a bungler." But the man had followed him to his house and he stood outside and heard this man crying and calling himself a bungler. And he said, "I want to tell you, you are not a bungler. Tell me what you wanted to say to me." And that man was led to Christ. He did it just by his tears and faith. Some men just cry when they try to say anything. But I know of a preacher who cried every time he tried to preach. And his tears had more effect on his people than his sermons. But he thought that the tears hindered his sermons. And so he prayed to the Lord to deliver him of his tears. And the Lord answered that prayer. And he found that without his tears he could do nothing. And he prayed that the Lord might give him back his tears. And he won more men to Christ through his tears than in any other way. Some times just one word, just a handclasp is enough. All God wants is obedience. Let us pray about this thing and go out and serve the Lord and do what he wants us to do. If there is someone you can reach, no matter how hard it is going to be, you do it.