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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God's Will

Some people can holler and call that praying. Some just say their prayers and call that praying. Once while traveling from one place to another, we had left our daughter some distance from the preaching place. She was to come later with some others to hear me preach. They started out in one of these affairs that were used then to travel in and that were made to turn over in the dark. And they did turn over in the dark. When they finally came to the meeting. One of them said, "And Mary prayed out loud." When folks get into trouble like that then they think to pray. You can say prayers with your eyes shut and your soul shut. Perhaps that is better than not to pray at all. But some day you will be made to realize what miserable praying it was. Some people pray just when they feel like it, others pray whether they feel like praying or not. The time to pray is when you don't feel like it. When you don't feel like praying then is the time that there is something wrong with you. And that is the time you should pray.

It is very hard to give up to the will of God. We are so stubborn, so self-sufficient in our own ways. Once after a Christian had fallen to the very lowest. He prayed from the last ditch in which he was standing, "O Lord make me willing." If there is any disappointment come upon us, it is hard to say, "Thy will be done". We are such stubborn, self-sufficient souls, always wanting our own way. I knew of a politician in Roosevelt's administration who was running for office, and lost out. He said to me," I thought I was going to be elected, but now all of my plans have been telescoped. My ambitions killed in a moment"
Such times are very hard and they come to all and then it is hard to say, "Thy will be done". If God takes away your child, if you have many losses, if you become poor, then it is hard to say, "Thy will be done". It is hard to be blind, deaf, or sick or weak in body, and then to say, "Thy will be done". God does not willingly afflict his children. I know of a man of wonderful genius, the superintendent of an Assembly, who with his wife prayed for the restoration of their child. He said to me, "We didn't ask God if He wanted the child to live. But just prayed that it should live. But God answered the prayer, and after a time we were glad when God took our child." This child if it had lived would have been an imbecile. God knew better. A great many times we are bereft and if we had our way we would not be so and yet that way is the best for us. One day a man seeing a friend who had been bereft of a son, went up to him, and said "I see you are unconsolable about your son. I was that way when I lost my son. But one night I dreamed that I went to Heaven to see my son. I saw my son in heaven, I saw the Savior. I asked the Savior to give me back my son. The Master finally consented. But just before we started off the Master dropped a scroll he had in his hand. It fell open at my feet. It was the story of my son's life. I saw him in his childhood at play, I saw us sitting in the evening studying together. I saw how I lost my boy. I saw him in heaven. Then I saw him given back to me. Then I saw him on earth again falling into temptations and not saved. And then I said to the Master, "Keep my boy". It ought to be a comfort that God has taken from this life some who can not be saved on earth. As to whether you have
definitely surrendered your soul to Jesus or not, that is the question. After the terrible hours in Gethsemane, Jesus said, "If it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless Thy will be done." Some one has said he was praying because he thought he was going to die and not going to be able to go to the cross. But to my soul the thought nauseates me. The blood of Jesus Christ, the blood on the cross, that is the cup. I want to tell you the effect of the cross will never cease. Jesus prayed three times to be delivered and he was answered in God's own way. God gave him the victory of the cross. The devil offered him another way. That way was a short cut. The way of least resistance. It costs something to be a Christian. There is no way of least resistance. You can only be saved by the way of the cross. Luke 14:5. Folks needn't think that all of their fellow Christians will be saved. Many have never seen God, never seen heaven. Jesus prayed three times to be delivered. God heard him and gave him deliverance. A man has got to the task when he can glory in his own infirmities. Gal. 4:15 Just because you are a Christian is not a guarantee that you are to be exempt from sorrows and afflictions. Some times that is just the reason you are afflicted. Some people think Christianity is so much service and so much prayer. Some Christians when they are in trouble think "this is what I get from serving the Lord." He afflicts ever son he receives. I would much rather be afflicted and have the knowledge of God that to have his silence. If God forsakes you and does not afflict you, then you are
certainly lost. The silence of God is the most terrible thing in life. "A thorn in the flesh". Satan is the one that buffets us. Satan afflicts us. Don't I know it. I have had afflictions and trouble and sickness. Didn't I have consumption and hemorrhages and wasn't I healed? God cut me down that I would give in and go and preach to the Indians. Oh if the Christian Science people had known about me case, they would be telling it over the whole world. I want to preach on Satan, to you some time. That malignant person, that wonderfully wise person. God can not use us unless we are humble God can not use self-sufficient men. God can not use conceited men. Man's disappointment is God's appointment. Jesus prayed three times for deliverance. I have a right to pray that God will take away the blindness and deafness of my soul and the weakness of my body. And if I ever get sick with consumption again, I will pray to him again, I have a right to pray. It is his business whether he will answer or not. It is through human weakness that the devil comes and through human afflictions that the devil tempts us. I know of a paralytic woman a most glorious Christian woman. She once told me, "I don't pray any more about my illness, the Lord has said speak to me no more about this matter". That woman has given up to be a paralytic for the rest of her life. She is a brilliant soul in her little wizened body. And then I think of the many brilliant people who are wasting their soul on this world. My wife had a letter the other day from a friend, a young attractive person of genius, who has everything in the world, and I think to my soul it is a waste of life. I hope God may bring that life to awakening and light some time. And
then on the other hand there is that woman sick and weak in body, serv-
ing the Lord. God has some need of your weakness. "My grace is suf-
cient for thee. My strength is made perfect in weakness". Thir it is. I knew of a man who was the head man in a protestant school in
Europe, a man gifted with wonderful judgement. So sweet and helpful
and yet in his little wizzened body a master among men. God had some
need of his weakness, more need than he had of his strength. He was
offered a pastorate just to preach once or twice a week. But he said to
me, "I want to do some thing". I told him to come to the Indians and he
did come and died a missionary. One of the most powerful things in his
life was his weakness. You needn't think you are just forsaken of God
because you are afflicted, you may be a hero in his faith yet. Dr.
Fair once took me to see a sick bedridden woman. I got such a blessing
from that woman as I never got any where else. After several years I
went again to see her and there was the sister still ministering to that
sick woman. We sometimes forget those who minister to the weak. Here
she was after five years in the same place still suffering, could not
move without being moved. I asked how long she had been suffering like
this and was told it had been eighteen years. I told her all the jokes
I knew, and I know a great many and we had a great time. Before I left
I said to her "God is good". And she said, "Yes God is good". She had
been paralyzed eighteen years, in one place, and yet she could say this.
Such cases makes us know that God's grace is sufficient. I know of a
man who broke one finger. After that he never worked again. Went around
mourned that one finger. One day the ladies had a prayer meeting. He went to that meeting. After a while one of the ladies said "and now brother what has the Lord done for you. He got up and said, "The Lord pretty night ruined my life", and showed that finger. We despise that kind of a spirit. The Lord sends us these things but he sends us power to bear it and we will glory in God. If God sees fit to send it upon you he sends grace to bear it. I think one of the reasons that the rosary is so popular is that it is an outflow of human sorrow and trouble. You all know the history of Dr. Mathison going blind. Before he went blind, he wrote the song, 'Ah love that will not let us go.' God will not let us go. I thank God there is alight that never goes out. You also have heard of Dr. Shmoke a German minister. His church burned down, his wife died, then he went blind, then became paralyzed and after all of this he wrote the beautiful song. "My Jesus as thou wilt."