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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John 1:3.

Praying Ground.


Conditions of answered prayer.

One of the conditions of answered prayer is that we do the things pleasing in God's sight. God will not hear a stingy person's prayers. A man who prays to God to help others, but never thinks to put his hand in his own pocket. You must back up your prayers by your actions. If you pray for the heathens, God may send one of your children to the service. If you do not go yourself, you ought at least to be willing to send one of your children. "Go ye into all the world." You are at least called upon to send a representative into the field.

One day at a meeting the men were praying for a brother in need. When they got through praying, a little boy whose father had been praying, said, "Father if I had as many potatoes as you have I would have answered that prayer myself." Sometimes people come to you with all kinds of pleas of hard luck. We sometimes make a mistake by answering all such pleas. It may be that some one who has been drinking all his life and is down and without funds is begging. And if you answer that man's plea for help, you may be only giving him the money for him to get another drink. But I don't want a string tied to anything I give. I don't want to hear the person say that he is not going to drink any more. If after you have helped him, he don't want to try to do better. His be the responsibility. I have done what I can. However in the larger cities the charities are so arranged that one can give to a place where only the
needy who are worthy will receive help. I am glad that the Christian consciousness has been awakened to this point. God don't hear the stingy person's prayer. Some people's souls are dried up. I know of a good man, a man who always pays his debts. But he was so stingy that whenever he pays his debts he puts the money so that he can't see it go out of his own hand. I say that is not God's will. God won't hear your prayer if you are a stingy soul. You can not pray if there is inconsideration in your heart. You can not pray if you are inconsiderate of your wife. You can not have family prayer after a spirit of haste and angry words. Inconsideration in a family hinders praying. You have got to exercise the spirit of consideration. I once made a hasty remark to a musical friend who was visiting in my home. Afterward I spoke to my wife about it. It was troubling me. She said, "Oh let it pass". That is just what I wanted to do. And I was so glad she advised me to let it pass. Just a few days later I was going to preach. I thought "What am I going to say first." The talk was to be about self-surrender. I thought, "How about yourself". I had to take my own medicine. If I don't take my own medicine, I can't preach to you. That is good for the preacher and for the pew. I wrote to my musical friend and apologized I know one thing he knew that I was trying to live a Christian life. After that I could roll up my sleeves and go after the rest of them. I knew of a man once who was showing some samples of boomerangs. One of them came back and knocked his own hat off. That is the way a great many people give and do their work. So that their work will come back to them. And sometimes it does come back and almost knock their head off.
And then way down deep their hearts say, "Oh you hypocrite."
Mark 11:26, and when you stand praying forgive that your Father may also forgive you your trespasses. God will not forgive us if we don’t forgive, if in our hearts we cherish unforgiveness and resentment. If we would have our prayers heard, then if your brother have aught against you, go first to that brother and be reconciled. It is so hard to humble yourself and yet we have got to do it. Once a man wanted to sue me for something for which he had no right to sue me. But he knew that I was a preacher and I suppose he thought I would rather pay than to be sued. But I was a young preacher, and I talked to him, and it is strange but I never got angry at him, but I told him that was no way to do business. Not long after I was called to preach where that man was, and the first thing that came to my mind was that man. And I didn’t want to go there and preach. But I thought that was not the Christian way to do. I would do what the Lord called me to do, even forgetting and forgiving. At that meeting that man was converted. I want to his home and he was led to God. While I was at college a young man for some reason which I do not know to this blessed day got angry at me. I had noticed that he wouldn’t speak to me when he passed me. If I had been a good Christian I would have asked him what had made him angry. But I thought I would rather lose his friendship than find out what was the matter, but that is not Christian. One day I was walking on the campus and directly that boy was coming up from the other way. I saw him coming. We were alone on the campus. And I thought here is my chance. But when he came up my heart began to beat so loud against my ribs, that I just let him pass and I never said a word. But I thought that is not
Christian, and I turned around and called to him, "Say you have got something against me, what is it". And he said, "Oh that is all right." Some folks are so sensitive they get their feelings hurt so easy and go around carrying them with them way out, so that you can knock them off with a stick. A Christian ought not to be sensitive. Sensitive people will let some little trifling thing like that come and embitter their whole life. Once I was at a little place holding services. The people there had never heard any evangelistic services. They didn't know how to treat and evangelist. They didn't know how to act at an evangelistic service. We didn't seem to be making much headway. So I got up and said, "I know what is the matter with you people. You are scrapping with one another. One of the old men got up and he said, "You are making it mighty plain preacher, but I guess you are about right. There is an old fellow over there who has been mad at me for a long time. But if he will just shake hands with me everything will be all right." That is the way some people embitter their life by not doing what God wants them to do. Christ wants your heart to be singing all the time. Of course you Christian folks have troubles just like any body else, but your heart ought to be singing all the time. Have you ever notices how when you are on the outs with anyone, you will meet them wherever you go. They will go to the same receptions, you meet them at church, you meet them every time you go on the street. And we have to go to some unusual measure to get out of their way. Or when you have hurt just one finger, how nothing will hurt more than that finger, and you go around thinking of that finger all the time. If we would just do what Jesus wants us
to do, how sweet, how happy it would be. When some people pray they put out their hands in a certain way. And they think it just looks so sweet and that they pray so effective. But let me tell you right now, when they get to thinking that, God just shuts his door on them. If the spirit of God is not there you had just as well quit. When the man is in earnest then the postures are beautiful and the prayer is sweet. When the church is full of the spirit of God then the service is beautiful and the singing is beautiful and effective, because the spirit of God is there. If a church is not so then it is a stumbling block in a community. It is a terrible thing if a cloud stands between you and God. If your sins have made him hide his face from you, God will not hear your prayer. To be a presumptuous soul. To know that you are doing wrong to live in your own wrong. No greater sin is there than that. Let us search again the highways and turn again to the Lord. Some people don't believe in revivals. Psalm 85:6 is a prayer for revival. Tears and lamenting are of no avail as long as your heart is in sin, and if you know that it is sin. How beautiful the prayers of a penitent man. While living in New York, a man once came a long way just to pray with me. That man prayed a beautiful prayer. His diction was perfect, his thoughts were beautiful. Oh it was eloquent praying. But that was the dryest composition that I had ever listened to. I kept wishing if he would only go and stop praying. I was so glad when he had gone. It was better to be left alone than to have that man praying. I didn't know why it was then, but I know now. That man was a forgerer and was trying to cover it up by his life. His beautiful prayers were like ashes in the mouth.
If you haven't the power to pray, there is a reason, and God knows that reason.

A Clean Heart.

One thing I of my Lord desire,
Be it by water or by fire,
O make me clean, O make me clean,
If clearer vision love impart
Grateful and glad my soul shall be,
But yet to have a purer heart,
Is more to me, is more to me.

So wash me then, without, within,
Or purge with fire, if that must be.
No matter how, if only sin
Die out in me, die out in me.