

6.4 B. Problems affecting the meeting and participation therein which are largely personal with the individual believer.

1. An enumeration of the problems:

- a. Lack of public assurance or self confidence. It is the problem of one who feels insecure speaking to others. He is the "tongue'tied" chap who is disconcerted by the presence of people when he speaks. It is a legitimate problem and affects many brethren.
- b. Comparison with others...the inferiority problem. It is most commonly evidenced in meetings where there are a few men who are very loquacious with their prayers and seem almost to be in heaven...sharing intimate thoughts with the Lord. Others, hearing the force of this worship, are caused to feel that they "cannot do it as well" and so remain silent. Whether the problem is legitimate in the psychological sense (there are many intriguing matters in this regard), I am not so certain, but it is real in the lives of many of the Lord's people and needs our help.
- c. Feelings of uncertainty..which differ from "a" above in that the individual is never sure "when" he should express himself...he often wants to, find s the words in his mouth, but is fearful that the time may not be right and so he says nothing. (Remember: we are not minimizing private and silent worship. But a public meeting needs some open response for best effect.)
- d. Conscience, a sudden understanding that what the believer is about to say with his mouth is not the real attitude of his heart. This has to it both a side of truth and a side of error.
- e. Unjudged (or unsettled) sin, known to the believer. It is, of course, a good reason for silence. But there is a better action to take and we shall discuss it.
- f. Inexpressiveness...some simply find it very hard to put deeply emotive concepts into words. I sympathize with these but see this as a less-legitimate problem in that it is largely a matter of will. If the will is not engaged, the individual will not be given heartily to what must be done. He may also have a wrong view about what the expressiveness requires.

2. Discussion offering some further help on these problems:

6.5

- a. Remember that all believers are on common ground with the Lord. There is no inherent inferiority.(or superiority)
- b. The Lord, in whose presence we gather, is far greater than any of us. If we can speak of and to him, we should be able to do the same with each other.
- c. Participation is vital if the medium is to survive.