

D. Some pre-meeting problems that should be noticed if time allows:

6.10

1. Coming to the meeting "tired."
2. Allowing our circumstances to master us for the occasion and so we come to remember the Lord while we are really remembering our problems.
3. A lack of mutual encouragement both for taking part and for making our participation whole-hearted.
4. And a great temptation...of which I hardly know what to say... to sit in remote areas of the auditorium and make the spiritual communication as difficult as possible. This is especially true where the meeting is less well attended. If one's meeting needs every seat, this is less likely to be the case.

E. Some points to remember:

6.11

1. The purpose in the meeting is to honor the Lord ..not to parade ourselves...so the individual worship can forget himself, so to speak, and dwell on the Lord.
2. Distractions from spiritual truths have a fleshly root, if not worse than that, and should be treated as such.
3. Almost every gifted saint (well, all are gifted...but I mean those most notably gifted in fruitful works) has had feelings of inability...from these he learns to trust the Lord and do what he is told. We may learn from them and apply it in our worship.

F. And next week: (hopefully)

6.12

We will examine some of the things that we may do that further our participation in the meeting. Some items that are spiritual and practical at the same time. Useful, we hope, and important.

G. Some questions to ponder:

6.13

1. Jeremiah was uniquely called and prepared by God. He, like Moses, felt inadequate. Read Jeremiah 1:1-16 and see what God told him about his capacity to serve. Note that he was of the priestly line. Is there not a general sense in which the Lord's advice to Jeremiah applies to all of the priestly class?
2. A friend recently moved to a town where the meeting was very small in numbers. Just by being there he was compelled to take a greater role and soon found himself enjoying (!) participation in the "morning meeting." "Back home," said he, "they had lots of brethren speaking and I felt no need to take part. It's different here." We are glad he has had this experience and thankful for growth. But can you see why the back home attitude was wrong? How can one correct this attitude without having the advantage of moving?