

# God's Means of Achieving His Purpose

by T. Austin-Sparks

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*God's means of achieving His purpose in our lives is through the Spirit of sonship and the Cross, and it is achieved by trusting in Him and His ability to do all things.*

**Scripture:** John 15:5, Romans 8:15, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 1:6, Colossians 1:27, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Peter 5:7

**Topics:** "Faith in God", "The Spirit of Sonship"

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## Description

T. Austin-Sparks emphasizes that God's means of achieving His purpose in believers is through the Spirit of sonship and the Cross. He explains that true relationship with God begins with the cry of 'Father' and that the Spirit must work within us to form Christ. Sparks reassures that our spiritual struggles do not hinder God's work, as it is ultimately Christ who energizes us toward God's end. He encourages believers to trust in God's faithfulness, especially during 'off' times when prayer feels difficult, reminding us that it is not our efforts but His grace that sustains us. The key to spiritual life and prayer is a profound faith in Christ, who is always at work within us.

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## Transcript

By what means does God reach His end in His people? What is God's means of achieving His purpose? It is by the Spirit of sonship through the Cross. There is no hope of reaching God's end, or of even taking the first step in that direction, without the Spirit as the Spirit of sonship.

First there must be the infant cry, "Father"! There must be that relationship brought about by the Spirit. Then the Spirit of sonship, once He is within, must proceed fully to form Christ in us. Thus the Apostle says, "My little children, for whom I am again in travail till Christ be fully formed in you." It is not a case of my struggling toward God's end, but of the Spirit of God's Son in me energizing toward God's end. Oh, that we had faith here! If you really have faith on this particular point, you will have the secret, of a profound rest.

You know, we have our "off" times spiritually - "off" times in the prayer life when it seems impossible to pray; "off" times in many other ways spiritually. No matter how we struggle, we can make nothing of it. What are we going to do? Well, if my experience is of any value to you - and I believe I have discovered just a little of the secret of things - I have come to this position: Through the Spirit Christ is in me, and everything is with Him - not with me. It is not what I can do, nor what I cannot do, nor how I am today; all is with Him. Today, maybe, I am not conscious of His indwelling, but on the contrary very conscious of other

things that are not Christ. Well, that is my state; but He is faithful, He is true. He has given me certain assurances about never leaving nor forsaking me, about abiding through all the days to the end, and about perfecting unto the day of Christ a good work which He hath commenced.

He started this thing - I did not; He undertook this thing. Before ever I had a being, He had undertaken to carry through His perfect work in any one who would trust Him. That was all undertaken for before ever I saw the light of day, so that I did not start this - it is not commenced with me. My one thing to do is to trust Him - trust Him - and, if I cannot break through, to say: "Lord, I cannot pray just at the present; I must trust you to do all the praying."

No one who really has his heart set upon the Lord will take hold of a statement like that as a back-door way out of prayer. I am not trying to give you some excuse for giving up praying. I am saying there are "off" times, and I am not sure that the Lord does not allow us to have such times lest we should begin to build again upon works. He takes us right off that basis and throws us upon Himself, where there is no alternative but to trust Him. You are not surrendering your prayer life in taking that course at a time like that. If you could pray, you would do so; but now in a time of real inability you are just trusting the Lord about it.

I find I have these "off" times, but as I definitely trust the Lord, and say: "Lord, this is Your responsibility, and I know this will not last; that prayer life will come back, and I am trusting you in the meanwhile." It does come back, and in greater fullness and greater blessedness.

Beloved I have proved that again and again. It comes back. It is not merely that you get better and start again. You know quite well that you may be perfectly fit and yet be unable to pray. No one can make prayer. It is not a matter of health and strength to be able to pray. You may be a perfectly strong man or woman, but you cannot get through to heaven in prayer because you are that.

Prayer has to do with an opened heaven - prayer is fellowship with the Lord; and that is His doing, not ours. He brings that. Trust Him. "I live; and yet no longer I, but Christ liveth in me"; He has the whole matter in hand. While my attitude is one of faith in Him, He will see that there is a prayer life; He will see that there is a life in the Word. Positive faith in Him is the secret of everything in the will of God.

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