

the universe over to the whim and caprice of those who pray. But this is true. To every contrite and obedient mind, God sends the Holy Spirit as a guest and guide. The things He asks for us, or, rather the things we ask by His inspiration and assistance, we shall receive—for they will be the things best for us and most pleasing to God.

Recall the words Christ spoke regarding the Spirit's work. He told the disciples that men would hate them, deliver them to councils and bring them before governors and kings for His name's sake. When placed in such sore straits he directed them not to be anxious as to the answer they should make, for, said He, "it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak, for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of the Father that speaketh in you." Their case would be something like that of a man in prayer. Before the earthly king or court they would feel abashed and be unable to defend themselves aright. For the most part the early Christians were simple and unlearned men, unused to such affairs, and ignorant of what they ought to do. They are commanded to cast themselves upon the Spirit's aid. They are to yield their minds to the divine influence and control, and are assured that God will speak through them in words of wisdom that their enemies can neither gainsay nor deny. We find this promise perfectly fulfilled to Peter and John as recorded in the third and fourth chapters of Acts. The apostles have healed the lame man at the temple gate. They have made his cure a text from which to preach Jesus to the people with great power. The Jewish rulers are enraged. They do precisely as the Saviour had foretold they would. They cast the apostles into prison and the next day they bring them before the council and sternly demand by what authority they do these things. It is not long since Peter quailed before a servant maid and denied his master. It would not be strange if in the presence of the council he should fail. But he speaks now with such boldness, yet with such calmness as astonishes and confounds his foes. We are told that "when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled, and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." Ah, it was more than that! Not only had they been with Jesus, Jesus was with them then—in the fulfilment of his word—"I will not leave you comfortless. I will come unto you."

This scene teaches us how we may pray. We come to Him who