

sometimes mean immersion. But I deny what you assert, and are bound to prove, that it never means any thing else. If I can prove that it sometimes mean to pour, or to sprinkle, you will be defeated.

*I.* Certainly.

*S.* I do not believe that God attaches any value to modes or forms. It is the obedience of the heart in the thing done, and not the manner of doing it, that is acceptable to him. Water applied in any way, in the name of the Trinity, by a proper minister, to a proper subject, is valid baptism. I have, therefore, no wish to deny that you have been baptized, nor to withhold from you Christian fellowship and communion, as though you were disobedient. This is the charge you bring against me. And as it induces you to banish me from my father's table, I certainly owe it to myself, before I consent quietly to be treated as disobedient, unworthy, an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, and a stranger to the covenant of promise, to make my defence.

*I.* I have often wondered how so many learned and pious men, as I believe to be among the Congregationalists, could have any doubt as to the duty of being immersed. And it does really pain me to act as my duty requires, in debarring them from our communion. I am anxious to hear your defence: especially as you are not disposed to attack the validity of our ordinances.

*S.* We are willing to be judged by the Bible. We can prove from it that the word baptize does mean, to pour out, to sprinkle, even if it also means, to immerse. In Acts i. 5, Jesus said, John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost, not many days hence. John had before said, Mat. iii. 11, that Jesus should *baptize* with the Holy Ghost. What language does prophecy use in relation to the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Does it ever speak of dipping, plunging, immersing in the Holy Spirit? It speaks plainly, and never intimates any thing of the kind. Let us hear:—Isaiah xlv. 3, I will pour out my Spirit upon thy seed. Joel ii. 28, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Isa. xxxii. 15, Until the Spirit be poured out. Ezekiel xxxix. 29, For I have poured out my Spirit. Does the New Testament say that any were ever dipped, plunged, immersed, in the Holy Spirit? Not the darkest hint is given that it was ever done. Matt. iii. 16, John saw the Spirit descending and lighting upon Jesus. John xx. 22, Jesus breathed upon them, and said, receive ye the Holy Ghost. From these prophecies, and their fulfilment, we would not expect a case of immersion in the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit. By whom was it performed?

*I.* By the Father. John xiv. 16, 17. He was to send the Spirit.

*S.* When was it performed?