

is argument in the Bible ; and argument is indispensable : but it is not by argument that men are made new creatures. The power that Christ promised the disciples is not that of logic.

5. It is not the *power of thought*. All of us know by experience and observation that ideas wield immense power in the world ; that brilliant thoughts exercise a kind of magic influence on those that hear them : yet we must admit that the power of ideas is not that which saves. The Bible does not claim superiority on account of its ideas. I believe, of course, that it contains the sublimest ideas, the profoundest thoughts ever clothed in human language : but it is not upon its literary or intellectual character that it rests its claim to the homage of mankind. Indeed, you may study the Scriptures for sixty years, you may be the best Biblical scholar in the land, and be at last a castaway. It is not the ideas of the Bible that save. The history of preaching abundantly proves this. Read the sermon which was preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost, and it will not strike you as sparkling with ideas ; it will not astonish you with the profundity of its thoughts. Sermons that display as great mental calibre had been preached before, and have often been preached since. The sermon on the Mount, and the sermon that Paul preached on Mars' Hill stand higher on the intellectual and philosophic side ; and yet they made but few converts. Why ? Because the power of thought is not the power that saves. Look again from the pulpit to books. It is not the most intellectual