

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MY ONLY LAW."

This expression occurs in the November EXPOSITOR OF HOLINESS, in the article, "About teaching spirituality and legalism at the same time." It frequently occurs in substance in this magazine, and is often heard from the lips of those who are in the enjoyment of the Pentecostal life. I think it a proper expression, and a necessary experience of those who would live a satisfactory life. Still, I can conceive of it being used in a way anti-scriptural, that is anti-truthful, and as a matter of fact, it is often understood in this way, when used by a speaker or writer in the true way.

I understand it to mean that God the Spirit is recognized not only as the Author of all law, but that He controls all law, spiritual, moral, financial and otherwise, without limitation, in the interest of the Spirit-led man. Hence, such a man will, every moment of his life, be in the enjoyment of the highest good which is possible for him to enjoy at any present time. God teaches him His will, or what is the same thing, causes him to be taught, from moment to moment, so that he knows "all things" both in variety and extent that God expects him to know, or which it is possible for him to know at the time.

The Holy Spirit may be said to bear the same relation to the Christian as the teacher does to his pupil; the Divine Teacher leading His child "into all truth" as fast as he can be led, in view of his capacity and environments. And still further, the original capacity or ability the Christian possesses, both in adaptation, quantity and quality, is a direct gift of God. So that so long as a man walks in the Spirit, God makes Himself responsible both for his attainments and obtainments. The person, then, who lives a spiritual life, simply recognizes God as the author of being, the author and controller of law, and the absolute controller of his body, soul and spirit, and all that pertains to him, so that God makes "all things work together for his good" in the absolute sense.

While all this is doubtless true, the

Lord the Spirit is not limited in His method or medium of teaching. He uses other individuals, also what we call providence, accidents, our own infirmities, and even what judged alone would be called blunders, to teach us. Not only has the Holy Spirit inspired the truths of the Bible to teach His will, but He speaks to the spiritual in all His holy laws in nature, both in matter and mind, and inspires the soul to understand all the various truths therein contained, as he needs them. That the Holy Spirit can and does guide the faithful direct by "the voice of God in the soul," goes without saying.

Nor does God ever contradict Himself, and the person who takes "the Holy Spirit as his only law," will infallibly find that "the voice of God in the soul," harmonizes with the voice of God in business, in providence, in mathematics and in morals. Now, if I, as an individual, have a class of spiritual pupils to teach, say in mathematics, I cannot be truthfully accused of legalistic teaching, by imparting to them a knowledge of that science, and showing them the importance of walking in harmony with its God-given laws, even if I do not refer them to the Holy Spirit in this thing. In such a case I should feel myself to be the agent of the Holy Spirit to teach these Spirit-led persons this important truth. They, too, would have a right to acknowledge God as leading them into this new truth, just as really as if He had not used any instrumentality in so doing.

Because a friend of mine, a young man, about to start business on his own account, is led of the Spirit, it is no reason why he should not need teaching, by some competent person, in business or commercial law, or why he should not be governed by the well-known laws of honesty and industry, also have a regular business system. The walk in the Spirit implies a walk in harmony with every law of God, so far as one's knowledge extends.

If a Spirit-led man violates grammatical law in his use of language, it is highly commendable in him to instruct himself in this particular, and while under the law of the Spirit, put himself also under the law of grammar, nor