

If it were a matter of great importance how or where Christians are to meet, or what form of Church government they should adopt, the Scriptures would not be silent on the subject. But the very opposite is taught in our Lord's discourse with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar (John iv. 20-24). And in the Epistle to the Hebrews we read of our great High Priest now appearing "in the presence of God for us," of "the true Tabernacle" in the heavens, where He is, of the one great sacrifice for sin, and of the "spiritual sacrifices" which we, as worshippers, should offer, as we "enter into the holiest" of all by the blood of Jesus; in striking contrast with the legalism and formalism of the Mosaic ritual, all of whose services and sacrifices were only dim types and shadows of that more glorious dispensation of the Holy Spirit in which we live.

The history of this has, like that of all former dispensations, been a history of failure, from the days of the Apostles down to the present time. But there is reason to believe that many Christians are becoming aroused to the consciousness that the main cause of this failure is the practical non-recognition of the truth that the Holy Spirit has really come to dwell in the heart of each individual believer on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that all evangelical Christians profess to believe that, in some indefinable way, He does dwell in the Church, and guide into the truth of Scripture. But this is something very different from the teaching of the Word and the experience of Pentecost, which reveal Him to us as a living person, whom it is our privilege to receive as the Spirit of Christ, to whose power every member of His mystical body should be subject.

When the Master was personally present as a man upon earth with His disciples, it would have been absurd to lay down rules and regulations as to how they should act in His presence. All they needed was to know His will each moment, as occasion required, from His own lips, in order that they might do it. And before leaving them He said that those who believe on Him should do greater works than He did, because He was going to the Father, and He would pray