

Now we can proceed in our investigation with clear light, for at once all these rare phenomena of our being become classed with and are placed alongside of judgment, thought—all intellectual powers—and the ready inference is that, just as the Holy Spirit guides us through our judgment, so He proposes to guide us through or by means of impressions, dreams, or visions. For as these constitute a part of ourselves, His guidance would only be partial if a part of ourselves were excluded from His influence. Full-orbed experience in Divine guidance means perfect surrender into His hands not only of our common sense, affections, passions, appetites, and intellectual powers, but also of the domain of dreams, impressions, etc., so that all may be used freely to secure for us guidance into *all* truth.

Let us, bearing all this in mind, test the matter in actual life. Here is a person who is the subject of one of those comet-like impressions. We will let it be that strange incident in the life of the late Rev. Dr. Bangs, with which many of our readers are familiar. The Doctor, then a young minister, on horseback in Western Ontario, when passing a certain house some distance off the road, suddenly felt impressed that he should go into that house and make a pastoral visit, but as the snow banks around the lane and cabin—for it was one of the earlier settler's first homes—not only made it inconvenient to get to it, but suggested the idea that no one was at home, he passed on, but the impression did not pass away, but continued with him, and became so strong that after riding a mile or so beyond, he actually turned back, called at the house, and *found it empty*.

This incident is generally related to prove that guidance *through* impressions is wrong, and to show that any who talk of impressional guidance as a part of their experience are on the straight road to fanaticism.

But it will be well to remember that guidance by impression is one thing, and guidance by the Holy Spirit, through the occasional use of impressions, is quite another matter.

The above incident simply illustrates guidance by impression, which we unhesitatingly condemn. It is nowhere asserted that Mr. Bangs gave that matter to the Lord, and by faith got the mind of the Spirit concerning it. He simply acted concerning it just as those who are not Christians act—tried to manage it by the simple help of reason and common sense. Now, facts show that when impressions are so managed, some of them prove, when followed, to be beneficial in their results in helping us to escape threatened danger for ourselves or