

of the signs and wonders which attend them. This must be discriminated against most clearly and positively. We do not dispute their vantage ground in many things, but this is forbidden ground, and such assumptions are the certain precursors of untold calamities.

Now then, "to the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." So then in our next article we will undertake to show that Scripture, whilst it does give rich provision for our bodies, in the Spirit's dispensation, and whilst the more general possession of Pentecostal blessing, we maintain, means the use of the prayer of faith for the welfare of our bodies, vastly more than has yet been seen in the history of the Church since the times of the apostles, yet it does not put faith for health of body on the same basis as the health of the soul.

EXPOSITION.

"But if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law."—Gal. v. 18.

Notice that Spirit is spelt with a capital, which tells us that it refers to a distinct personality. Notice also that law is not so spelt, implying that it is not the Jewish Law but the principle of obedience to laws or rules. The contrast taught in the text is that between doing because the Spirit directs or leads that way, and doing because the law commands it.

The fact that the Holy Spirit never can lead in a way which is contrary to the commands of God, seeing He is the inspirer of all true law, does not destroy the antagonism here indicated. He who performs any work of righteousness because he has a Bible-rule for it, and he who performs it at the instance of the Holy Ghost, his recognized Guide, are two widely differing persons. They are separated from each other by a gulf which cannot be bridged. And yet no mistake is more frequently made by sincere professors of holiness than this apparently simple one we are considering. It seems to be accepted, as a matter of course truth, that so long as we keep the law,

that is, are obedient to the commandments of God, all is well, forgetful that obedience to the law, as law, and obedience to the law, as the result of being led of the Spirit, are as widely apart as the poles. There is no real sameness in them. There may be an outward resemblance, but when closely examined the totally different nature of such conformity to the laws of God can be discerned.

Take for example the observance of the Sabbath. In the one case there must be a set of rules concerning what may be done and what may not; concerning what conversation is lawful and what is not; concerning reading, visiting, church-going, etc. But in the other case there is but one law of Sabbath observance, the law of the Spirit. That is, he is consciously "led by the Spirit," to the ignoring of all these rules and regulations. He sees his Guide ever near him, and so can follow in confidence. He hears His voice and so proves that he is walking uprightly. You say that the outcome in both cases is the same, that the best-made microscope cannot detect the difference in their practice. Well, granted that this is so in the present case, yet if you bring the two together the difference will at once become apparent. Paul maintains that there is a radical antagonism between them, for they who live after the law ever have and ever will persecute them that live after the Spirit. Now let them converse together concerning their different walks, and see how soon he who is under law finds fault with him whose only law is the guidance of the Spirit. Notice how carefully he begins to fear lest his children may be tainted by the heresy. As soon as they are safely taken away from the contagion of lawlessness he begins to show anything but a brotherly, childlike spirit towards his fellow professor of religion. It is not edifying to witness the scene which always follows, for few there are who have not witnessed with sad hearts the confirmation of Paul's words when one, whose life, however pious, is made up largely of obedience from a sense of *duty*, that is, because it is so commanded, comes in contact with one whose only law is the law—the *guidance*—of the Spirit.

Too many hastily conclude that, be-