

WORLDLY CONFORMITY.

Entire congregations are sometimes conformed to the world in their atmosphere and methods. Their very deportment on entering the house of God, the manner in which they conduct themselves during the services, the indefinable but unmistakable chill that pervades a congregation where there is somewhat of the form but nothing of the power of godliness, tell the story of conformity to the world. It is the drawing-room in the house of God. It is respectability as a substitute for zeal and love. Such a congregation is crucifixion to a right-minded pastor. If he yields in any measure to its worldly influence, he feels that he is sinking to the same level, and he loses his fire in the pulpit. If he resists the downward tendency, and antagonizes the worldly conformity that pains his heart and is destroying his people, he may expect harsh criticism and opposition. Worldliness antagonizes whosoever and whatsoever antagonizes it, in the Church or out of it. You must go with it, or it will go against you. Nothing but the power of God, acting through the most faithful human instrumentality can turn back the tide of worldliness when it thus takes in its sweep a whole body of Church members. The heroism that attacks this worldly conformity, when it is fortified by long indulgence, by numbers, by respectability and wealth, is equal to that demanded in any field of service to which God can call a truly consecrated man. The wisdom of the serpent, the harmlessness of the dove, are needed for this work now. The courage that can withstand friends as well as enemies, the courage that is ready to take popularity for principle is also demanded.—*Nashville Christian Advocate.*

THE WILL OF GOD.

Whenever I meet with the will of God, I feel that I meet with God; whenever I respect and love the will of God, I feel that I respect and love God; whenever I unite with the will of God, I feel that I unite with God; so that practically and religiously, although I am aware that a difference can be made philosophically, God and the will of God are to me the same. He who is in perfect harmony with the *will* of God, is as much in harmony with God himself as it is possible for any being to be. The very name of God fills me with joy.—*Madame Guyon.*