

the Spirit of God goes along with the truth, and follows up its natural and legitimate tendency, in the conversion of sinners; that is, the spirit acts in conjunction with the word, and not in opposition to its nature, in saving souls.

If this be true there can be nothing hazardous in pressing men to an immediate decision respecting their eternal interests nothing that implies giving up the doctrine of the Spirit's influence in conversion, or the doctrines of divine sovereignty and election. So thought Peter on the day of Pentecost. So thought Paul in the prison at Philippi. And so thought and preached, all the apostles. In their preaching, we never discover any thing of that hovering round the point—nothing of that cautious, qualified statement of the uncompromising claims of God upon the conscience—nothing of those speculating doctrinal drawbacks upon the sinner's obligations to drop his weapons and submit to God at once—nothing of that virtual announcement, from the pulpit, that it is not expected men will obey God and to do their duty, which, if I mistake not, are so abundant in modern sermons; and which must greatly weaken the power of gospel appeals.

*Two or three PRACTICAL REMARKS, will close this discourse.*

**I. This subject teaches us the doctrine of MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.**

If the peculiar usefulness of the first advocate of christianity, over those of other ages, is not to be referred to any thing more favorable in their field of labor, nor to the gift of inspiration, nor to the power of working miracles, nor to the mere acts of divine sovereignty, disconnected with moral causes—then, my brethren, we may well sigh and weep over the limited amount of good which is secured by our ministrations. If it is true, that the success even of the apostles, depended wholly, or even *principally*, on spiritual causes,—on the singleness of purpose with which they pursued their object—their persevering and self-denying labors—the simple and naked manner in which they presented the truth of heaven—their honest and fearless appeals to the conscience—their broken-hearted dependence upon God—the union of affection and effort which pervaded the ministry and the church—and the enforcement of the claims of God upon the sinner, requiring submission without compromise and without delay—then, it becomes us, my brethren to inquire how far the want of the fruits under our ministry may be owing to the want of those spiritual qualifications. If the difficulty lies here, then, we have no excuse. Enjoying as we do, peculiar facilities for accomplishing much for the kingdom of Jesus Christ, and living, as I trust we do, upon the borders of a far brighter era, no doubt a most fearful re-