

be made pure and elevated to the position they occupied before the fall—taken up from the dust, reduced to order and applied to use ; for all our appetites are good when taken up or elevated above evil desire.

If they *drink* any deadly thing it shall not hurt them. Pure water represents truth, and hence the significance of baptism. If water is rendered impure, it represents truth falsified. If poisoned, it contains deadly errors. To drink any deadly thing would signify to receive grievous errors and false doctrines ; but they who have cast out devils, (evils,) from their hearts, and from the abundance of their hearts speak with new and regenerated tongues, and have taken up their serpents ; if they *should* drink some deadly thing, accept some false doctrine, i shall not hurt them ; because loving and doing what is good they are not led into evil *acts*, by the false views which they may receive into their understandings, as we see daily, men holding very erroneous doctrines, and yet living good lives.

They shall lay hands upon the sick, and they shall recover. Those qualities in us which are diseased and disordered by evil, are properly called the sick. The hand represents power and guiding strength. With the good man, it would be the power of righteousness, which is potent to heal the sick on which it is laid.

If, at the time of the Apostles, when a few miracles were wrought, to arrest the attention of the very sensual men of that age, these signs *literally* or physically followed some of the believers ; that was no reason that the signs, in their deeper spiritual sense, should not always follow true faith. For though the outward appearance may not now be present ; so far as the great work of spiritual regeneration is concerned, the signs *still* follow, and the promise still holds good. He that sincerely and heartily believes and is baptized—purified in heart and purpose—his sensual nature, the serpent, shall be lifted up ; he shall speak with new tongues,—the understanding will be enlightened by true faith ; the affections will be purified and led by that true faith ; his sin-sick soul shall be healed ; “ and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them, “for they shall not hurt nor destroy in my holy mountain saith the Lord.”