

SANCTIFICATION THROUGH THE TRUTH.

BY REV. JOHN BRASH.



THE Holy Ghost is the sanctifier of the saints. It is important, however, to understand the nature of His work. So far as we can see, it is no part of His office, in this age, to reveal truth. All that is necessary to know in order to salvation He has revealed already, through the "holy men of God" who wrote the Scriptures. He who imagines he has been taught by direct revelation some new truth respecting the character and moral government of God, or the way to be saved, is certainly mistaken. He is becoming a victim of spiritual pride, and is on the highway to fanaticism. There is scarcely any error more dangerous than that of a blind, unreasoning faith in mere impressions. We are commanded not to believe every spirit, but to try the spirits whether they be of God. But how can we do this otherwise than by bringing them to the test of the written Word?

The doctrine of the New Testament is, that while our redemption from the power and pollution of sin is the work of the Holy Spirit, that work is wrought, not by the *revelation* of truth to the *mind*, but by the *application* of truth to the *heart*. He is the Source of all purifying influence; the truth is the medium through which the influence flows. "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth."

"To us at this day this Word has come, and to us at this day the anointing of the Holy One flows down. For you, for me, (thank God!) the teaching of the Spirit remains. It remains for the servants and the handmaids; and many an obscure and lowly brother in the streets around us can say for himself as truly as St. Paul could say, 'I have received the Spirit that is of God, that I may know the things which are freely given to me of God.' But one who thus speaks can know that his convictions are really the teaching of the Spirit of God only so far as they correspond with the eternal types of truth, which ascertain to us what the teaching of the Spirit is. Now, as in the apostolic days, he which is spiritual can show that he is so only 'by acknowledging that the things which' these appointed teachers 'wrote to us are commandments of the Lord;' for the gift of the Holy Ghost to others is not a gift whereby they originate the knowledge of new truths, but a gift whereby they recognise and apprehend the old unchanging mystery, still receiving afresh the one revelation of Christ, ever approaching, never surpassing, the comprehensive but immovable boundaries of the faith once delivered to the saints. This is the gift which makes the written Word a living Word, which fills a church with joy, and seals a soul for glory."*

The Scriptures will be to us a dead letter or "a living Word," according to the state of heart in which we read them. Many readers of the Bible fail to obtain from it either light or comfort, because their hearts are not honest. They are not walking in the light already given. They are conscious of resistance to the will of God. It may be in a little thing, but it is important enough to make the eye evil. No wonder that the whole body is full of darkness. "It is worthy of notice," says Professor Upham, "that we have in this Book abundant promises that those who will sincerely seek to obtain knowledge shall have assistance. God says in various forms of expression, Try to know, and I will help you to know; seek Me, and ye shall find Me."

* Bernard.