

cises his omnipotence (or irresistible power) in conversion, or in the perseverance of saints; for here the powerful influences of grace must harmonize with (not destroy) the free will of man. The irresistibility of grace would contradict the very first (fundamental) idea of God's plan in the creation of moral agents."

Again: Irresistible power could easily restore this (the image of God,) so far as the choice of the good is concerned, but no such power can consistently be exercised in conversion. Blessed is he who, without delay, improves the convictions wrought in his soul by the Holy Spirit. But many who are awakened are nevertheless not converted. The reason is, that in this propitious moment, when the effective grace of God has brought them to reflection, they do not perform their duty, but neglect the time of his (gracious) visitation."

Again: "We may resist the Holy Spirit in two ways, either by excluding him altogether from our hearts, or by banishing him after he had taken possession. Every sin grieves the Spirit, and every deliberate voluntary transgression drives him from us. Successive cases of careless and unconcerned grieving of the Spirit become deliberate wickedness, and the continued resistance of the sacred influences leads to their permanent withdrawal.\* From the foregoing the reader will perceive that the views of the Lutheran Manual on the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit are in substance those which are from time to time exhibited in the *Day Star*. We rejoice in the glorious truth that Christ gave himself a ransom for all, and tasted death for every man. We rejoice to know that the Divine Spirit strives with all the children of men. His work is co-extensive with Christ's work, and moral in its nature. Those consequently who perish under the gospel, are lost because they deny the Lord that bought them, and resist that gracious, and Divine Agent, of whom the Father speaks when he says, My spirit shall not always strive with man. O may the time soon come when that Saviour who died for all shall be received by all, and when that Divine Spirit who came to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, shall dwell in and sanctify every heart. M.

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\* P.p. 100,101.