

Secondly—The nature of Holiness :

Holiness, perfect holiness, dwells in God alone. There it exists in infinite perfection. For comparatively "the heavens are not clean in his sight, and the angels he chargeth with folly." But still the people of God have many gracious promises, and those are given that they might by them be made partakers of the Divine nature. For "they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvellous light." In order then that men may be thus comparatively holy, there are certain requisites that they must necessarily possess, viz: They must possess knowledge; "He that cometh unto God must believe that he is, and that He is a rewarder of all them that diligently seek Him." They must possess that "wisdom which cometh from above;" for, as the Apostle says, "God that commandeth the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." This light or knowledge communicated by the word of truth, to the human soul, affects a moral renovation. It discovers the moral pollution that existed there undiscovered, till the direct influences of the Holy Spirit by the word, illuminated the dark recesses of the heart. This light in the regenerate will continue to shine—their knowledge of the character of Deity will increase,—as it embraces the Trinity of Persons in the Godhead—the proper Divinity and Godhead of our Lord Jesus Christ—the infinite atonement made by him on the Cross for the guilty—and the sublime and distinguishing doctrines of the holy Bible throughout, will be unfolded to the view of such as are thus initiated into this sacred school of knowledge, and they will continue more and more to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will discern more distinctly how God can be just, and the justifier of the poor sinner that repents, and believes the Gospel. Thus the principle of holiness infused into the immortal soul will daily be strengthened. This it is to be born of the Spirit—"born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." This it is to be united to Christ by a living Faith. This in the very nature of things is union with God through Christ. This is the foundation of holy communion with the Father and the Son through the Eternal Spirit. This radical change cannot exist without holiness of heart, lip, and life; and in a word all the graces of the Divine Spirit will more or less ultimately make their appearance to the glory of God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly—We mention some of the means of promoting personal religion, or holiness of heart and life, in order to communion with the blessed God.

Very dear Brethren, we have found by experience for many years, (some of us, at least) that so far as human agency is concerned, secret meditation, reading the blessed word of life, and secret prayer, hath more than any other means been blessed of God to our souls benefit. We would therefore with prayers and tears, recommend to old and young, to public and private characters, never for a single day to neglect these duties, we may say these privileges.

We would also recommend the constant and invariable attendance on family worship. The neglect of this duty hath ruined many a Professor of Religion. Through this neglect of family prayer, we repeat

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