

box inside; touch a spring in this, and lo, a golden ball was uncovered, and this, on opening, was found to contain rare and precious gems.

4. *No one is too young to be filled with the Holy Spirit.* Perhaps one reason why our young people remain so long in an uncertain relation to Christ and the church is that we have not expected and prayed that they should be filled with the Holy Spirit from their birth. We have acted as though the Holy Spirit could do nothing until, by voluntary choice, they deliberately opened their hearts to him. And so we have waited, and taught them to wait, until "years of discretion" were arrived at before their decision for Christ was to be looked for. If believing parents would only realize the precious right which they exercise when they present their children for baptism, and the covenant blessings sealed to them in the sacrament, they would not hesitate to pray and labor and look for the presence and power of the Spirit in every babe.

5. *Repentance must precede pardon and acceptance with God.* "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." No man who has done evil in any way can be restored to forfeited favor but by repentance. No parent would feel that he could receive

back to his confidence a disobedient child that was not sorry for his fault, not merely because of its consequences in the way of punishment, but because it was an offence against love and law. Until he is convinced that he regrets what he has done, and is resolved not to do it again, the father's heart is not satisfied. It is universally true that where there is no repentance there can be no real pardon.

ADDED POINTS.

1. Piety is possible even in "the days of Herod the King."
2. The only righteousness that is worth anything is that which God takes note of.
3. Christ is "our righteousness," before the law of God.
4. Our disappointments should throw us back on God's wisdom and love.
5. The house of God is the scene of many heavenly interviews.
6. The highest service demands that we abstain from that which is a source of danger and moral death.
7. We can all prepare the way for Christ in our own hearts and the hearts of others.
8. True religion will make the home life happier.
9. The folly of a disobedient spirit.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Was Luke a Jew? (Col. 4: 11, 14). What was his profession? What other book of the New Testament did he write? To whom did he write them? Of which apostle was he a companion? For what people was this gospel written? What do you know about Herod? Who was Zacharias? What is meant by "the course" of Abia? Who was Aaron? Who also bore the name of Elisabeth? (Ex. 6: 23). What is meant by "the order of his course"? What is meant by "his lot"? What was the law regarding incense? (Ex. 30: 34-38). Where was it offered? With what fire was it kindled? Who offered "strange fire before the Lord"? Give another instance of the appearance of this angel? (Dan. 8: 15-18; 9: 21-23; Luke 1: 26-29). What other angel is named in the Bible? (Dan. 10: 13, 21; 12: 1; Jude 9; Zech. 3: 2; Rev. 12: 7). Where did the altar of incense stand? What stood on the north side, and what on the south? Why was Z. troubled and afraid? For what had he been praying? Why would he have joy and gladness? Why would many rejoice at his birth? What was the law of the Nazarite? (Num. 6: 1-5). What other instances of abstinence from wine in O. T.? (Lev. 10: 9; Jer. 35). What proof of the divinity of Christ is found in our lesson? Explain the meaning of the last verse.

THE BLACKBOARD.

Sum up the facts about John:

Brought **J**oy and gladness

Drank n **O**wine

Filled with the **H**oly Spirit

Preached repe **N**tance

"Be filled with the Spirit."