

for the first time, that God requires something utterly BEYOND his power. Now a man may make the most costly sacrifices, he may even go as far as laying down his life in the fond hope of pleasing God thereby, but there is *one* thing he can *not* do, and that is, effect his own new birth. Yet our Lord says positively, "Except a man be born again, he CANNOT SEE the kingdom of God." It follows, therefore, that the unsaved sinner is thrown back on the absolute sovereignty of God. Effort *in any direction* on his part is utterly impossible. This only can he do:—as speechless, lay his hand upon his mouth; as humbled, bend down his face to the dust; and thus, in silence, *listen*, while GOD SPEAKS.

But many people object to this, and say: Does not St. Paul command, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"? and does not this precept of his teach us that salvation is the result of a life-long struggle? By no means. To whom did the Apostle utter this command? Was it to the Court of Nero?—to the gladiators of the circus?—to men dead in trespasses and sins?