

CASTING OUT UNCLEAN SPIRITS.—

When Christ commissioned His twelve apostles to preach the gospel of His kingdom, one of the powers with which He endowed them was to cast out unclean spirits, and this power have the true successors of the apostles still. All who preach the gospel of Christ's kingdom with earnestness and simplicity, whether from the pulpit or through the press, make unclean spirits flee away; and only faithful preachers have this power, for it lies not in them, but in the Gospel which they announce.

Intoxicating drinks are an unclean spirit, which is cast out by a faithful gospel preacher so far as his gospel teaching takes effect.

Tobacco is another of the unclean spirits which can be routed, though it is reluctant to depart. Drink and tobacco are as hard to cast out as that unclean spirit which baffled all the disciples and which could not be dislodged by Jesus himself.

Filthy and profane language are also very unclean spirits, but they readily give place to the speech that is always with grace seasoned with salt.

Licentiousness or lechery is a terribly unclean spirit—a burning, fretting leprosy which only our great High Priest can cure, but He can.

Jealousy, envy, hatred, revenge, are a troop of unclean spirits of a deadly character. They certainly kill the peace of the man who harbors them, and they are apt to force him to the murderer's crime and doom.

Gambling in all its phases is an unclean spirit of a fatal character, which, when it has obtained possession, can rarely if ever be cast out, except by the grace of God following conversation to Christ.

Spiritualism is perhaps the most inveterate of all unclean spirits. Indeed it is said, we know not how truly, that no one who plunges into it ever recovers. The intellect becomes so enfeeb-

led as to be incapable of believing the truth, whilst, clinging with inconceivable infatuation to the most obvious impostures.

Atheism, skepticism and unbelief, are all phases of the same great unclean spirit which slays more souls than any other, except it may be

Idoltry, which is found not merely among the heathen, but wherever any other object puts itself in God's place in our faith and affections. There are many other unclean spirits, and the only sufficient antidote for them all is the Gospel. How important then for all Christians to remember the injunction, "As ye go, preach."

POWER OF PRAYER.

The Bible account of the power of prayer is the best we have, or can have.

Abraham's servant prays—Rebekah appears.

Jacob prays—the angel is conquered; Esau's revenge is changed to fraternal love.

Joseph prays—he is delivered from the prison of Egypt.

Moses prays—Amalek is discomfited; Israel triumphs.

Joshua prays—the sun stands still; victory is gained.

Hannah prays—the prophet Samuel is born.

David prays—Ahithophel goes out and hangs himself.

Asa prays—Israel gains a glorious victory.

Jehoshaphat prays—God turns away his anger, and smiles.

Elijah prays—the little cloud appears—the rain descends upon the earth.

Elisha prays—the waters of the Jordan are divided; a child is restored to life.

Isaiah prays—one hundred and eighty and four thousand Assyrians are dead.

Hzekiah prays—the sun-dial is