

Practical Papers.

THE HIGHER CHRISTIAN LIFE.

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PART II.—HOW ATTAINED.

CHAPTER I.—FOR ME! WHAT THEN MUST I DO?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”—Acts ii. 38.



HE Apostle Peter's answer to the question, "What must we do?" of those pricked to the heart by his pungent words on the day of Pentecost, was substantially the same as the Apostle Paul's answer to the trembling, prostrate Philippian jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

And when the Holy Ghost came upon the disciples of Jesus on the day of Pentecost, in the power of this new baptism, the Apostle Peter assured the wondering multitudes that it was Jesus, who being risen from the dead had shed forth this which they saw and heard. It was the ascension gift bestowed upon his disciples by the enthroned and glorified Messiah.

The Scriptures everywhere teach us the same thing. They always answer the question, "What must we do?" by the assurance, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Whether the question relates to justification or sanctification, the answer is the same. The way of freedom from sin is the very same as the way of freedom from condemnation. Faith in the purifying presence of Jesus brings the witness of the Spirit with our spirits that Jesus is our sanctification, that the power and dominion of sin is broken, that we are free; just as faith in the atoning merit of the blood of Christ for us, brings the witness of the Spirit that we are now no longer under condemnation for sin, but freely and fully justified in Jesus.

There may seem to be in what has already been said, and still more in what remains to be said, an engrossing of all the offices, attributes, and relations of the Godhead—as we are interested in them—in the Son of God alone. God forbid that there should be even in appearance any robbery of the glory due to the Father and the Spirit. A few thoughts may serve now to set this matter right before in appearance it shall have gone too far wrong.

The attentive reader of the *Acts of the Apostles* can hardly fail to see that if the title of that sacred book was changed to the *Works of the Holy Spirit*, instead of the *Acts of the Apostles*, it would be quite as appropriate as it now