

in order to growth. The work of purity is in order to the work of maturity. A pure heart is the soil in which the graces of the Christian life root themselves and from which they spring. We cannot conceive of these graces rooting in, and springing from, a heart polluted with sin. Granting that the heart is cleansed from all sin, the only fruitage that will keep it cleansed is the "fruits of the Spirit." This is very forcibly taught by our Saviour where, in His parable, He represents the devil as coming and sowing tares amongst the wheat while men slept. A pure heart is a priceless treasure, but it is a treasure that can be retained only upon the condition of the progressive development of the graces of the Spirit in the life. We see no ground, either in Scripture or reason, for doubting the possibility of instantaneous cleansing as a separate and distinct blessing. We think, however, we see very strong reasons for expecting that the divine order would be that the work of purity and of maturity should progress side by side. The earlier the cleansing the earlier the growth of the graces; the more perfect the cleansing the more vigorous the growth of the graces. If the cleansing is in order to growth then we should expect the cleansing in proportion as we are prepared to develop, by their exercise, the graces of the Spirit in our lives. As we shall presently see, the graces of the Spirit will grow only as they are exercised. Their growth does not follow as a necessary result of regeneration or of cleansing. God is willing to prepare the soil of the heart just as fast as we are willing to cultivate the graces of the