

Their opponents can scarcely be said to desire such close, intimate relations with Him, but permit reason, common sense, the opinions of others, and commonly-received views of Scripture, to be a substitute for such momentary divine guidance.

Now, if all this is not correct, with respect to their opponents, how easily it could be rectified by their favorite yes or no answers.

For be it remembered that our friends are prepared, at any hour of the day, to give glad *yes* answers to all these statements as to their actual experience. To them the Comforter is a positive, realized presence, and He, according to the prediction of Christ, does really and truly impart continually God's peace and joy, does convince of actual sin or of its absence, does teach them all things, and guide them into all truth. Moreover, that thing which their opponents sigh after and never profess to have secured as a permanent fact in their lives, is to them a constant glad experience, namely, Holy Ghost power to do the will of God in all things, including *Christian work*, so as to be well pleasing to their Divine Master.

This experience came to them by faith when they were willing as believers in Christ to accept all His words concerning the Holy Ghost, and surrender themselves absolutely to His continued ministry. And it only is a continuous experience whilst absolute unquestioning obedience is rendered to the invisible though ever-present Spirit, all other laws to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Certainly they must plead guilty of playing the *role* of teachers, not only before fellow church members, but ministers of the Gospel, wherever a like experience is not witnessed to or exhibited. And as it is a matter of every-day knowledge that very few, indeed, even amongst the ministers, assume to have that experience, their attitude of apparent superiority is according to the necessities of the case, and outside of any choice on their part.

Whilst pastor and people continue to pray for and sigh after the experience they possess, their simple testimony to

the possession of this experience tends to place them in the chair of the teacher, and others on the benches of the student. This can only be avoided on their part by their ceasing to claim that for which others are professedly seeking, that is, hide their light under a bushel, where it would soon go out, and leave them at best seekers in place of being possessors.

Hence, it cannot but be evident to all that this is a distinct issue concerning experiences.

Now, as truth is mighty and will prevail, it matters not how far the battle may have to be prolonged, this truth must at length be accepted, and the true issue in this conflict be recognized by all, provided always that the proscribed ones retain and develop this their spiritual experience.

THINLY VEILED INFALLIBILITY.

One of the leading speakers at the recent trial might be a little startled if his speech, in one of its aspects, were stripped of its verbiage and put in plain English. It was virtually the effort to make the Assembly infallible concerning its teaching on the question at issue.

First, there was a delicately worded Christian experience given, of many years' duration. The description was strong and vivid. It told of a young man clearly converted to God, and, about one year afterwards when in the solemn privacy of the closet of prayer, consecrating himself fully to God and His service, of the happy, far-reaching results of that act of self-abandonment to the Divine Being, of his having been true to that consecration; through, if we remember rightly, upwards of four decades of Christian experience. Then without claiming the description as really a personal experience, but permitting us to accept it as such, he intimated his belief that there were scores of similar ones before him.

Now, thus far this was most interesting and satisfactory, but here was introduced a claim unworthy of the speaker, of the audience, and utterly at variance with the genius of the nineteenth century; for he really claimed that because of