

is they depend upon the wind and tide; they are controlled by circumstances; they depend upon surrounding influences! When will the steamer be in from Boston? "About breakfast time." Does she not lay by for wind and tide? "No indeed! Why don't you know she goes by steam?" "And there are the cars too, they'll be in exactly at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and at 4 in the afternoon; they come in so regularly that we set our clocks by their arrival!" Indeed! how can you account for this? These steamers and rail-cars seldom wait for wind or weather. What do you say? "They have their *motive power within them*" This is it, my brother; you have hit upon the grand secret of holy living: yes, indeed, the grand secret of honest success in every pursuit. We must have the root of the matter within us. Our religion must be one, not of form or theory or feeling alone, or even combined merely, but a religion of *principle*, implanted in the soul by the great Architect. All included in the New Covenant have the "law of the spirit of life" in their minds and inscribed on their hearts. They have received the gospel of God's grace into their understandings; it has an abiding place in their affections; they know whom they believe; they aim at the port of destination,—if the sun shines, and the wind is fair, and the tide is at the flood sweeping on to fortune, they are thankful for outward influences so favourable; but if storms and tempests lower, and fog and darkness settle down upon them, and current setting hard to keep them back, they nevertheless keep the ship's head toward port—they keep the inward machinery in good working order—the fire within still glows brightly—the heart is right, and he who holds the winds in his fists is at the helm and will in good time bring all such safely into port.

I need not explain these similitudes or illustrations; they are too obvious. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." May we "receive with meekness the engrafted word; which is able to save our souls." May "Christ dwell in our hearts by faith:" rooted and grounded in love we shall prove, with all saints, the length and breadth, and depth and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, and be filled with all the fulness of God.

But while I thus confidently exhort to look within, and trust to "God and the word of his grace." I am not unmindful of the fact that some look so much within, and see so much sin and corruption lurking in the secret chambers of their affections, that they despair of any remedy. They say, "our case is desperate—we have indulged sinful thoughts, purposes, and desires so long—they have gained such an ascendancy over us—we must always depend on the zeal and activity of others to keep us at all awake to the interests of christianity."