

Sicily, of Portugal, of Tipperary and of Moscow. And not only in the sphere of morals, but also in that of religious sincerity and fervor. If the aim of Christianity is to gain adherents rather than converts, to fit itself into man's crookedness rather than to make him straight, then are they right whose advice we have criticised. But the mission of our holy religion is to reveal to man his disease and to present to him a Healer and a friend who will lift him into the family of God, and, therefore, its business is not with adaptation to the stupidity of the soul, but to receive and to impart the power that awakes and saves.

4. *There is but one way to its possession.* Simon Magus wished to buy this power with earthly coin; the attempt proved to be more than a failure. It cannot be pumped up out of the "depths of human consciousness," it is to be RECEIVED. One hundred and twenty of the lowly ones of Judea gather in an upper room. They make no pretensions to learning or to peculiar natural endowments; of what they have of the latter they seem almost unconscious, but they are ON THEIR KNEES, they look up with the simple look of child-like faith, and this power comes upon them: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."—Acts 2:4. Some days afterwards a persecuted few of them met for mutual sympathy, and *again* "when they had prayed . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."—Acts 4:31. John and Charles Wesley, with a few others, determined in the earlier months of the Methodist movement, to hold a watchnight for converse and prayer; the Holy Spirit comes upon them, they lie upon the floor prostrate under the power of God for hours, unable for anything but praise; but from it they rise to work as giants in the work of God.

*But it is a gift for every one.* Acts 2:17.—"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." That is the promise of an inspired prophet quoted and endorsed by an inspired apostle. Luke, 11:13.—"If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children; *how much more* shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" These are the deliberate words of the Divine Master Himself. Pastor, do you want a revival? Ask and you shall receive. Class leader, do you wish lukewarmness banished from the class-room? Ask and you shall receive. Sabbath