

upon such things as letting the Bible open of itself, and placing the finger on a verse, with face averted, is to say the least of it, not helpful to faith in the direct teaching of the Teacher Divine.

Now, lest we should offend some of Christ's followers, we remark here that we do not necessarily conclude, from this line of argument, that the blessed Spirit does not guide us, at times, even when we partially lean to such adventitious props as those mentioned. Nor do we say that our Divine Guide does not, at times, lead us into the adoption of just such methods. All we wish to combat is adopting such methods as rules, and leaning upon them, in place of looking for the direct voice of the Spirit in receiving instructions through the written Word.

We may be reading the Scriptures, and, after perusing several chapters, one verse may be seized upon by our ever-present Interpreter, and made to do its office in bringing special comfort or counsel, and be as clearly the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart as if it came to us through a dream, or accompanied with many singular coincidences.

Such confirming testimony as dreams, coincidences, and strange providences may accompany the Spirit's voice to strengthen weak faith, but to exalt them to undue importance is to make a serious mistake, and to jeopardize future experiences. The casket may be valuable, but it is a strange whim that would have it exceed in value the gem which it contains.

Let us now gather up the results of this discussion. We infer that, as the Bible is the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, who is God, can never contradict Himself. When the Bible says, "Honor thy father," no amount of professed spiritual illumination can set aside the obligations of this law of God. We may cry, "It is corban," but it avails not; we cannot make void the word of God. But whilst we accept without reserve the general laws of the inspired Word, in the thousand and one doubtful matters where there is room for differing opinion, especially where, in their bearings upon our lives, there is room for different interpretations, and therefore for doubt concerning how they should modify our practice, the Holy Ghost is given as an interpreter of the Scripture to every individual who will accept His ministry, and such an one He will guide into all truth concerning everything in the Bible which touches His life. That while many have abused this doctrine, and will do so in the future, still it exists as the blood-bought privilege of every son and daughter of Adam.