

St. Paul in declaring how he received his authority as an apostle, says, *Paul an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father. Gal. 1. 1.* Here he asserts as plain as words can express it, that he did not receive his authority by ordination; for if he did, it must have been conveyed by man. He hath told us, that Christ gave him his commission in these words, *For I have appeared unto thee, for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness, delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, to whom I now send thee. Acts 26. 10.*

The next place brought for the support of the presbyterian ordination, is, that Timothy *was ordained by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 1 Tim. 4. 14.*

To make this text say any thing in favour of the point, for which, it is adduced, there ought to be clear evidence, that those who ordained Timothy, were all mere presbyters: and that no apostle had any hand in the business. Can this be made to appear? No! so far from any thing of this nature; that we know, that St. Paul ordained him.

Suppose those who assisted St. Paul were all apostles, or all presbyters, it makes no alteration in the case; for St. Paul was the ordainer. He who gives the words of commission is the ordainer. And let who will assist, they only give their assent, but do not give any authority to the person ordained; because there can be no authority given, without words, to specify what the authority is, annexed to the office, for which the person is ordained.* St. Paul *desires Timothy, to stir up the gift of God that is in thee, by the laying on of my hands. 2 Tim. 1. 6.* It is said, this was the gift of the Holy Ghost. I do not deny it. For it was necessary he

* In many places of scripture, preaching is called prophesying, and there is no doubt, that the word prophecy in this place, means the words that St. Paul used in ordaining Timothy. To convey the true sense of this place, it may be read thus. *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee, by the words made use of in thy ordination, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*