

heart. He will develop strength to forbear, to endure wrong and forgive it. He will become gentle and kind, faithful to his obligations both to man and God. His self-control and growing meekness will be ever more apparent.

IV. *Signs of being filled with the Spirit.*

1. Hatred of sin. When the Spirit fills the heart, compromise with sin will be intolerable. The cry in the soul will be, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults." "Search me, O God! and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

2. Delight in Holiness. Of such an one it is true, "His delight is in the law of the Lord." "And in His law doth He meditate day and night." He sets his affections on things above, not on things on the earth. His whole personality becomes changed by the Spirit of God, and the only truly congenial place for him is to sit "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

V. *The hindrances to being filled with the Spirit.* Why is not every believer filled with the Holy Spirit? The reason is plain. Because sin dwells in us. And what are some forms of sin in the Church?

1. Dishonesty. Analyse the methods of doing business and see what a lack of fair and honorable dealing there is between Christian men and their fellows. How often the controlling idea is, "I will take all I can out of you, and you can do the same to me." The Spirit of God counsels believers to think on whatsoever things are true and honest and just. And where these righteous principles are forsaken, the Spirit of God is grieved and repressed, and His work hindered. Not only in business, but in the common intercourse of Christians there is a lack of honesty toward God and toward man.

2. Lying is another great hindrance. This was sufficiently general in the Church at Colosse to call forth the Apostle's rebuke: "Lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds," and it is exceedingly prevalent now. How often are statements made, devoid of truth, to startle or mock or deceive the hearer, or for amusement, to create a false impression in the minds of the simple. Men say and do not. The Lord's counsel "let your yea be yea, and your nay nay, for whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil," is not remembered, and the Holy Spirit is grieved and hindered.

3. Evil speaking is another hindrance. "Evil thoughts defile the man," said Christ; and evil speech, corrupt communication, filthiness, foolish talking, these grieve the Spirit, and hinder the soul's sanctification.

4. Love of the world. "If any man love the world," says John, "the love of the Father is not in him."

5. Mammonism, that cherished fondness and

desire after riches, and what they can bestow. Where the god of this world rules, the Holy Spirit is quenched.

6. The manner of our social life. Social gaieties are carried far into the night, especially in cities and towns. The freshness and vigor are taken out of both body and soul, and time and inclination for spiritual communion are wanting.

7. Lack of faith. Our faith is so weak, unbelief and hardness of heart ensue, and induce a condition of the heart which cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit. Any one of these hindrances is sufficient to defeat spiritual life and growth. All together seal the soul's barrenness and desolation.

VI. *How may we be filled by the Holy Spirit?*

1. By yielding the heart wholly to Christ. Less will not do. He must have the throne, and must rule, and will do so when we "bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ," forsaking all and following Him, confessing and forsaking all sin and sinful habits, emptying the heart for Christ, that He may "fill it with all the fulness of God," the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

2. By waiting upon God for it. Thus did the early disciples. They are our examples. The Holy Spirit came upon them after ten days' prayer, and filled them with grace and power. Let us wait at the Throne of Grace, humbly, fervently, continually, and our hearts too shall be filled with that same blessed fulness, the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

"A church cannot prosper without due attention to its temporal affairs, but there is danger of being so much absorbed in them as to lose spiritual power. What is needed above all else to-day is a higher degree of spirituality in our week day and Sabbath services, and in the individual life and general work of the members of our churches."

"Christians of this generation are far too much accustomed to live only in the front rooms of the house, that look out upon the street; and they know very little—far too little for their soul's health, and far too little for the freshness of their work and its prosperity—of that inward life of silent contemplation and expectant adoration by which all strength is fed.—*Dr. McLaren.*"

"No man can be true to Christ and enjoy uninterrupted popularity. The truth is not popular. The mass of mankind does not love the truth as it is revealed in the Gospel, and many who fancy that they love Christ, and possibly do in a degree, are by no means in sympathy with all of his teachings."

If we are really willing to stand by the truth under all circumstances we must be willing to have enemies. As no man can serve God and mammon, so no man can enjoy the favor of Christ and at the same time enjoy the friendship of the world. The two things are simply diverse in their character; they are essentially antagonistic. "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."