

strengthened to take hold of the truth, and power, and grace of Him who gave them, as they plead them at His footstool. There are others who lay themselves open to the suggestion of "a word," as they crave encouragement or direction; and who, if a Scripture saying, which seems seasonable, comes abruptly into their mind, conclude, because of its suitableness and suddenness, that it is a message to them from heaven. These care not whether their application of it accords with the scope of the passage in which it occurs; they realize not His authority whose word it is; and they desiderate no experience of its sanctifying power. It is convenient for them to get it, and it seems to them safe to take it, and this is all about which they care.

There are others still, who have settled down in the conviction, that a speculative acquaintance with what is written is all that it is wise to seek. Utter strangers to the seasonable suggestion of the truth by the Lord, blind to the wonders of grace which the word unfolds, without any exercise of appropriating faith in Christ whom it reveals, and destitute of all experience of its power to kill or to quicken, to wound or to heal, to cast down or to raise up, to burn as a fire or to break as a hammer—these go on at their ease, without joy in the communion, or profit from the word of the Lord.

But let it be ours to be dependant on the gracious and effectual teaching of the Spirit of truth, under whose guidance even fools can be kept from wandering, and who can make it impossible that even they can be deceived. Let us not think that, amidst the multiform delusion which prevaieth, there is no