

glory. As the sun evidences his existence to all who open their eyes to see his light, so the divine authorship of the Scriptures is patent to every heart taught of the Spirit. This is the witness which the Spirit bears by the Word as His instrument.

But when we turn to what is here spoken of as "the full discovery which it makes of the only way of man's salvation," we require to study both the book of God and the book of the human heart. We have to compare the remedy with the disease, as set forth in the Word, as made known in our experiences, and as revealed in the records of the race. And when we examine "the efficacy of the doctrine," we have not only to study our Bibles, in order to discover the claims to potency which it puts forth for its teaching, claims which even a false religion might advance, but we have to compare the efficacy asserted for it with the results actually attained in the lives of those who have embraced it.

We place side by side the efficacy claimed for the Gospel message in the Word and the results achieved in the history of the church and in our personal experience, and we find the one is the counterpart of the other; and the efficacy of the doctrine is proclaimed by the record of its triumphs. The central message of God's Word has, in all ages, been to the Jew a stumbling-block, and to the Greek foolishness; but it has held on its way, doing its work unmoved, and wherever it has come it has proved the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. It has brought a consciousness of peace and pardon to the guilty. It has transformed hearts impure and vile into the divine image; and lives fast sinking into moral degradation, it has ennobled with lofty aims, with Christian virtues, and with high achievements.

When we are enabled, with true insight, to compare God's remedy with man's disease, and to set side by side what the Scripture claims for its teaching and the transforming power which it has exerted in those who believe it, then the Spirit bears witness "with" the Word that the book is of God. When the remedy cures the disease, it proclaims the skill of the physician who prescribed it. And when the wards of the lock respond to the key, we know that both came from the same hand.

### III. THE RELATION WHICH THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT SUSTAINS TO THE AUTHORITY AND THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE.

Were we seeking to establish what we regard as the true doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture, we would start, as we