

His own counsel about him, or as such an one as *His own Spirit was making Him*. "Thou mighty man of valour," says the Lord to Gideon, though at that time he was but a poor man of Manasseh, threshing wheat in his father's threshing floor at Ophrah. But, in the counsel of God, and by the energy of the Spirit, Gideon was the leader of the host of Israel against Midian; and the angel spoke in divine intelligence to him, or as the One who knew the purpose of God respecting him. So is it here. Jesus addressed Nathaniel, as Nathaniel was *under the operation of the Holy Ghost*, imparting to him the character of a guileless Israelite. This operation had been going on with Nathaniel in the solitude of the fig-tree, and that operation Jesus was divinely acquainted with.

Jesus was thus visiting the soul as *God* alone can visit it. He was touching the very springs within, and forming man after a new model. And in this most blessed and wondrous way, we track Jesus through one peculiar region of divine glory, and see Him there, in the power of His own Spirit, doing divine work. And He is there, *as at home*, as One who had the title to be there, without wrong or robbery. For what, I may ask, of divine prerogative is not His? What region of divine power may He not survey and measure as His own? Be they deep or high, be they where the *Spirit* of God alone can work, or be they where the *finger* of God alone can work, where the *strength* of God alone can be felt, or the *wisdom* of