

Redeemer's garments, to realize Him so personally present, that *above us* we can see His glorious form towering up into infinite Divinity; His head crowned with many crowns, and shining above the brightness of the sun; *beneath us*, as the Rock of Ages upholding the whole Church with the omnipotency of His power; *around us*, as the hills are about Jerusalem, that we being encircled with His Presence may be saved from all our adversaries, and rest in the fullness of His peace.

The painful absence of such faith causes many practically to banish Christ from their discourses. Never having themselves witnessed the transforming power of the Gospel of Christ when preached in the fullness of the Spirit, and seeing congregations doze and nod over sermons which they themselves thought good but which were destitute alike of fire and of the Holy Ghost, they have ceased making even the effort to evangelize and now seek only to interest or excite. To effect this result every unsanctified method is adopted; the arts of oratory, the questions of politics, the subtleties of science; anything, everything in fact that may be supposed to interest a congregation and stimulate their flagging attention. The truth is, men have grown ashamed of their Master and His blessed Gospel, not so much because they do not love Him, for many of them really do, but because that glorious word "Gospel" is absolutely divorced in their minds from that to which God inseparably joined it, namely *Power*. "Give me only fire enough," said Bernard Palissy, "and these pigments will become indelibly fixed on this china." "He's mad," screamed his derisive neighbors; "he's mad." "More fire," shouted the determined man, "more fire." And to-day the name of Palissy is the synonym over Europe and America for determination and success. I say the same: more Christ, more Christ; and you will forever burn His glorious name into the dull cold hearts of men.

*Secondly*: We need a ministry baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

There is no subject before the Church of Christ to-day of such tremendous import as this. What the Church needs most; more than gold and silver; more than social influence; more than all with which this world can dower her, is the personal power of the Holy Ghost. While lingering at Calvary, the Church has forgotten Pentecost; while mourning the *absence* of the dear Lord she has not rejoiced in the presence of her blessed Comforter. To use the powerful language of the late Adolphe Monod: "The Church has *unlearned* the Spirit." As a general rule we do not see that it needs the whole work of God, the Holy Ghost, to explain and bring home to the heart the work of God, the Son. Doubtless the disciples thought none so meet as they to go forth and preach Christ at the time of