

is converted by the word ; a second is converted without the word, and a third by prayer ! Oh, how the beauty of the gospel is hidden by such foolish and contradictory theories ; how reason is abused by such absurd and inconsistent views ! When will men learn wisdom and cease to tempt God by their systems, which are as contradictory among themselves as they are repugnant to the word of God. When will they cease to " blaspheme that holy name by which they are called," by ascribing disorder to him who is the God of order ? and by ascribing confusion to him who is the author of harmony ? When will they learn that in grace as in nature there exists *order*—heavenly, divine, beautiful, irrefragable order ?

We will go back to the creation.—

And God said let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his *kind*, whose seed is in itself upon the earth : and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his *kind*, and the tree yielding fruit whose seed was in itself *after his kind* : and God saw that it was good.—Gen. i. 11, 12.

Who can dispute that this plan now exists ? Who can alter this arrangement ? To apply the argument. In the parable of the sower our Saviour declares emphatically and distinctly, what the seed is from which the good plant is to arise to bring forth the good fruit :—*The seed is the word of God.*—Luke viii. 11. Again : Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, *by the word of God*, which liveth and abideth for ever.—1 Pet. i. 23.

Now the seed only brings forth after its own kind. It produces a tree, the fruits of which are " all goodness, holiness, love, joy, peace." The seed can only be received into the ground of the heart in one way, " Faith comes by *hearing*, and *hearing* by the word of God." Who can dispute that this plan now exists ? Who can alter this arrangement ? But some say we have the evidence of our senses that persons have been converted by the word of God to Methodism, some to Unitarianism, some to Episcopalianism. This is impossible they are not of the same *kind*. The creed book of these different sects is the seed, and each brings forth after its *kind*.

We know the order of generation. If we pray that God will drop down a child from the clouds, will he answer ? Nay, if we should employ years of labor and study in forming a child after the image of nature, should we mould the countenance, construct the body, the lungs and heart according to the pattern of the living child, should we form a nicely modeled ear, a well constructed eye, and an accurately moulded nose, and finish all the parts of a physical being according to the living specimen ; and then fall down upon our knees and pray that God will bless our work and acknowledge it by breathing into its nostrils the breath of life—by making it become a living being ; that he will cause the breast to heave, the heart to beat, and the blood to flow ; that he will make the ear to hear, the eye to see, and the nose