

to exist? First, our answer is that there is no intimation either in the Old Testament that it would cease, or in the New Testament that it had ceased. On the contrary, the Old and the New dispensations speak through Peter on the day of Pentecost, when he says, "This is that which has been spoken by the prophet Joel, And it shall be in the last days, saith God, your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, on My servants and on My handmaidens in those days will I pour forth of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy." And even previous to Pentecost we find in Matthew x. and Luke xii., how Jesus assured the seventy disciples that He sent forth to preach, that when they spoke before civil or ecclesiastical potentates, "It shall be given you in that hour what ye shall speak, for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you." After Pentecost, the preaching of apostles and others is frequently described as the word of the Lord, and the miracles that accompanied, as well as the conversions that resulted, proved that the words of these *men* were really the words of *God*. This was to be expected, for the Master had said, "If they kept My word, they will keep yours also." Paul claims this unmistakable and definite position, that of being God's mouthpiece or spokesman, when he says, "Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth," for as he averred in a former verse, "Unto us God revealed them through the Spirit," 1 Cor. i., and in 2 Cor. v. 20, "we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled unto God." And very definitely indeed, is the same claim made in 1 Thess. ii. 13, "Ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it, not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God." Peter certainly spoke the words of God when he rebuked Ananias and his wife; and Paul, when Elymas was smitten with blindness.

These instances and quotations do by no means complete the number of what might be cited in illustration of the fact that in the apostolic age at least many were the instances in which words

spoken by man were really the words of God.

But one may object, that all this was in the early age, and the men who thus spoke have left us their words, and all we have to do is to modestly interpret and apply them, always assuming that we need not expect to get beyond the possibility and liability to err in our interpretation. I answer again, that not one saying of Christ or His apostles can be cited to prove that we have not now the privilege of so hearing God's voice as to be conscious that it *is* His voice, and so speaking as to know that we are speaking the mind of God. If we are united to Christ as the branch is to the vine, will not *His* thoughts become *our* thoughts? If, as Paul tells us, our bodies become temples of the Holy Ghost, will not the Holy Ghost permeate our thinking power, so that, as at Pentecost, we shall speak as the "Spirit gives us utterance?" When Jesus first promised the Spirit, He said, "He shall abide with you forever, and He shall be *in* you." No! our privileges are enlarged and not diminished, for the Master said that he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist, and *he* was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. The prophecy of Joel is for the last *days*, not one day alone.

So we can understand what Peter, the man who opened the kingdom of heaven to the Jews, the Samaritans and the Gentiles, says in his first epistle, fourth chapter, "If any man speaketh, speaking as it were oracles of God, . . . that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

This, then, is the way to complete the glorifying of God in connection with the name and testimony of Jesus Christ. One important way of glorifying God is to live out in deeds the holy life that Jesus lived, and the other, which completes in human living the glorifying of God, is to speak as oracles of God. As Peter put it, in unison with the state of things that Christ instituted, and as we now put it, the idea will be startling to many, but pure truth has always been startling to those whose minds have not been in harmony with God. And it is none of