

revealed will which were before either altogether hidden, or beheld very imperfectly—and how conclusively this result proves that this gift is not from man, nor of man, but of God, and that it is God's Spirit alone working in us, and with us, when we see this effect in our own souls and in our work and labour of love, on behalf of others who may be placed under our charge, and whom we strive to benefit by means of this grace which we receive.

"Again, the Apostle says 'we have this treasure in *earthen vessels*.' He could not have used a more appropriate expression to signify his own *natural* worthlessness or utter powerlessness for any high or exalted *use*. Earthen vessels which were and are still very common in the East, are often quoted in Scripture—we must apply this in our own cases—how mean and worthless we are naturally without the treasure before spoken of; for dust indeed we are and unto dust we must return—the placing this treasure in earthen vessels, and these latter becoming supernaturally the instruments of vast, exalted and glorious ends, must redound to the glory and praise of Him who places the treasure there.

"A man (we now speak as we have before done, of those who might be called upon to become the messengers of the glorious Gospel) of great talent and natural worth, might accomplish vast good, and all this would redound to the glory of sinful man—but *now* we know and feel that it is the Holy Spirit which accomplishes all this good by means of chosen instruments—and therefore we give God the glory which is his due, and we may thus see how wisely God has ordered all things for the exalting of His own name and the eternal welfare