

III. NECESSITY.

1st. *The repeated and emphatic declaration of our Lord.*

"Every word of God is pure." If he has made a declaration, the thing is so. If he repeat it, it marks its strong necessity. Here he gives it additional emphasis by prefixing the terms *verily, verily*. * * *

2nd. *As a meetness for enjoying the privileges of the Church.*

We cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven without it, *i. e.*, the Church on earth: we cannot be real members of the Church of Christ and be strangers to a spiritual birth. We cannot enjoy any privileges belonging to real believers. All the benedictions, etc., to the churches are given to believers. Otherwise we sit with God's people, we join with them in praises, but it sits only on the tongue, and proceeds not from the heart. Our prayers are not the expressions of desire. No hope to animate, no faith to realize. No happiness here or hereafter without this change. There is chaff mingled with the wheat on the same floor, but the breath of God's wrath will drive it away.

3rd. *As a meetness for Heaven.*

"Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." But no man can be holy without this change. It is the principle or germ of all holiness. We must be born again, or die to all eternity. How can we stand before a pure and holy Being in our polluted state? If we never see the importance of a change from corrupt nature before we stand at the bar of the Holy Jesus, then his eyes of flame will make us awfully conscious of our impurity, and what impurity is. * * * *

IV. REASONABLENESS.

"Marvel not." Be not surprised, filled with astonishment or wonder, as though it were unreasonable or absurd. Nicodemus marvelled, but our Lord assisted him in the apprehension of the truth. * * *

1st. *As though it were new.*

It is nearly as old as the creation. It existed in every successive period of the Old Testament Church. * * * *

2nd. *As though it were enthusiastical.*

Enthusiasm is to expect an effect without a sufficient cause. Now holiness *must* exist previously to man's being admitted into heaven; and how can holiness be produced without regeneration? And without the Holy Spirit's influence on the human heart how can regeneration be effected? Is it not, therefore, sound, sober sense to entertain the idea of a divine supernatural agency in producing a divine and supernatural change, which is absolutely necessary to be experienced before we enter heaven.

In Conclusion,—Let there be, 1st. Enquiry. * * * *

2nd. Resolution * * * 3rd. Exertion. * * *

Sinners, awake, and seek the Lord while he may be found.