

He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His name." John i. 15. But, alas! how many like Esau despise that birthright, selling it for a mess of pottage; for the whole world and all it contains is but a mess of pottage compared with this birthright.

But this free gift is all of God's grace, not because there is anything in the nature of man to commend him to God or to merit such a wonderful blessing. What saith the Scripture as to the state of man by nature? "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." John iii. 6. And what is the character of the flesh? Paul, through the Holy Ghost, gives the answer. "In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing." Ro. vii. 18. Again: "The mind of the flesh is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be; and they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Ro. viii. 6-8. Again: "You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. ii. 1. The sinner is like Lazarus as he lay in the tomb, and his coming forth to life depends altogether on the power and love of Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus raised the dead three times: the little maid whose spirit had just fled, as she lay upon her bed; the young man who was being carried out to his burial; Lazarus, who had been dead three days,—which was the easiest? All equally impossible to man—all equally possible to God. So the youngest sinner needs the same Almighty power to quicken him into newness of life as the oldest reprobate, and the oldest reprobate is not beyond the power of "God who quickens the dead and calls the things that are not as though they were." Ro. iv. 17. Isaiah also gives us God's own photograph of the natural heart in those words: "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isa. lxiv. 6.

Still further, Mr. Mills tells us that "In every person there is the germ of faith which, if cultivated, would bring forth the highest spiritual life." These words were delivered with the greatest emphasis and deliberation as one of the strong planks in the speaker's theological platform. He is a Presbyterian, and one might be inclined to put this question from the Shorter Catechism to him: "How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?" "The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ by *working faith in us*, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling;" but