

receive and exercise them, in subjection to her Holy Head. The church that quenches the Spirit, and lives to itself alone, must die.

We believe the preaching of the Gospel to be one of the chief means, divinely appointed, for the spreading of the glad tidings of life and salvation through our crucified Redeemer, for the awakening and conversion of sinners, and for the comfort and edification of believers. As it is the prerogative of the Great Head of the Church alone to select and call the ministers of His Gospel, so we believe that both the gift and the qualification to exercise it must be derived immediately from Him ; and that, as in the primitive church, so now also, He confers spiritual gifts upon women as well as upon men, agreeably to the prophecy recited by the apostle Peter, "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh ; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,"¹ respecting which the apostle declares, "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."² As the gift is freely received, so it is to be freely exercised,³ in simple obedience to the will of God.

Spiritual gifts, precious as they are, must not be mistaken for grace ; they add to our responsibility, but do not raise the minister above his brethren or sisters. They must be exercised in continued dependence upon our Lord, and blessed is that ministry in which man is humbled, and Christ and His grace exalted. "He that is greatest among you," saith our Lord and Master, "let him be as the younger ; and he that is chief as he that doth serve. I am among you as he that serveth."⁴

While the Church cannot confer spiritual gifts, it is its duty to recognize and foster them, and to promote their efficiency by all the means in its power. And while, on the one hand, the Gospel should never be preached for money,⁵ on the other, it is the duty of the Church to make such provision that it shall never be hindered for want of it.

1. Acts ii. 17.

2. Acts ii. 39.

3. Matt. x. 8. See also Acts xx. 33-35.

4. Luke xxii. 26, 27.

5. Acts viii. 20, xx. 33-35.