

For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer,
Both for themselves and those who call them Friend?"

In seeking an answer to our question, it may be further remarked that good, wholesome, spiritual food is essential to the maintenance of spiritual life; and unless this be given to our people, they will suffer spiritual death. It is cause for sorrow that, in many quarters, the people are not fed with food such as the Master blesses. Can we therefore wonder if we find little, if any, spiritual life? We want more of the old-fashioned, oft-abused Gospel. *It*, after all, is the power of God to the salvation of sinners, and the building up of saints. Our fathers loved it, lived upon it, and died in its defence. We want no new Gospel; we need not seek a Gospel in France, or Germany, or Rome; we already possess it, as Jesus gave it, as Paul preached it. Oh let us preach the Gospel in all its fulness, and the souls of our people will prosper and be in health.

Before we can hope to see spiritual life increase, we must give more prominence in our teaching to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is to be feared that many of us sadly fail in this respect; and yet do we not know that without the Spirit's aid all our efforts are vain? God the Holy Spirit is with us to-day. His office is to give life, to teach, to comfort, to guide into all truth. And if we have amongst us any blessing, if we see any life, if we have any power, if we can point to any success in our work for Christ, it is because the Spirit has blessed. Oh that we—that all our churches—might be baptized by the Holy Ghost! Then should we see a mighty revival, and spiritual life would prevail.

As ministers of Christ our course is plain; we are His ambassadors, and are sent to preach peace through his name. Let us be true to our commission. Men need the Gospel to-day as they ever have needed it. The world may change, but men's hearts, with their sins and sorrows, are the same as when Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labor, and I will give you rest." We must deal with men as Christ did, and in His spirit, and to do this we must study *Christ*. How He loved and pitied men! How gentle were His words! How tender was His sympathy! How full of compassion was His look! How He won the erring back! How patient was He! How the poor sin-stricken ones were drawn to Him! They came to Him with their sins, and sorrows, and pains, and He turned none away. Jesus lived to bless, to do good; He died to save; and to-day He is the same. His love never alters; His power is almighty. He loves His church as He ever loved it, for He bought it with His blood; and precious to Him are the feeblest of His fold. Are we, the under-shepherds, concerned for the welfare of His Church? He more. Let us, then, go boldly to Him, for His we are. We need His aid, and He has promised to give it. Let us lay our burden at His feet, and ask that to us, ministers, deacons, people, may be given more life, more power, more of Himself, and the blessing shall be given; for it is ours to ask, it is His to give, and to Him shall be all the praise.—*The Christian*.