

creatures towards each other as He manifests towards them. Study the Divine model ! God forgives no man till he repents. He forgives as soon as man does repent. He is always ready to forgive. He forgives freely. He forgives fully ; and He forgives the greatest wrongs. We must do the same.

Fifth, its attainability and enjoyment. It is attainable now, by the weakest as well as the strongest ; by the young convert as well as the aged Christian. Why not, since it is the gift of God, received upon certain conditions, which conditions we are all able to meet ? If you are making account of the time that you have been in His service, your faithfulness, or your growth in grace, you are in some measure depending upon your own works, which have no merit at all. Oh, cast these away, and depend upon the cleansing blood ! You can never be saved in any other way. You can no more grow into a state of sanctification than you could grow into a state of justification ; and none of you think of such a thing as that. Growth is good in preparation for either state ; but your growth may be so rapid that you shall regard it rather as a sudden expansion. And we are inclined to think that this is God's usual method. Get the cleansing, and then you will be prepared to grow in grace. How can you grow while you are so diseased, and will not first submit to be made whole ? Do not think it is above your reach. How is it that children and persons of weak minds have the work wrought in them ? We know that they sometimes do, while their strongly intellectual friends fail to grasp the idea. I knew a young woman who had been an invalid for years, and never having possessed a strong mind became in most matters exceedingly weak and silly. I once heard her scoff at the Word of God in a manner that made my blood run chill, at the same time that it led me to pity her imbecility. But by the grace of God her heart was regenerated. About two years afterwards she was cleansed and baptized with the Holy Ghost, after which time she was in many respects a profound theologian ; though in temporal things as foolish as ever. She is still living in the state of Pennsylvania ; and living to convince every candid person who sees her, of the reality of this state of grace, and of the fact that God has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Why has He done so ? Because they receive the truth in simplicity.

This is a state of higher enjoyment than a simply justified state. At the same time we make a great mistake if we attempt to define our position by the amount of our enjoyment. We are sometimes called to walk by faith, and the trial of our faith is precious. The witness of the Spirit is the test. Have you that witness or have you not ? The Spirit does witness to the fact of our sanctification just as clearly as to our justification, and in the same manner. How ? When we ask this we know that we are asking according to the will of God, for " This is the will of God, even your sanctification ; " and having asked according to the will of God, we believe the promise that such shall receive the things for which they ask : having met all the conditions, we believe that we do receive. The witness of the Spirit comes as the result of an act of faith in relying upon the promise. May the Spirit teach you, and lead you to a firm reliance upon the promise of God.