

shone in the heart. The words of the text shew that this great power was placed in 'earthen vessels,' in order that it might appear to man, how great indeed this gift was, and therefore from its excellence that it could not spring from man, but from God; and so made manifest the power and redounded to the glory of God. The Apostle goes on to show that the persecutions and troubles which he endured did redound to the praise of God, to the benefit of the Church, and lastly to his own salvation. The words of the text are most comforting when viewed in a proper light and spirit, at the same time they tend greatly to humble us, by reminding us that we are as earth, and can do nothing good of ourselves, but as the Spirit worketh in us. The Apostle says 'we have this treasure'—well might he call it a *treasure*, a boon of priceless value, which he in common with his fellow-Apostles found—they, on that memorable day of Pentecost, when God the Spirit descended upon them, and henceforward shined in their hearts and gave them all knowledge of the glory of God and great boldness to preach the Gospel of His own dear Son—and he, St. Paul, received afterwards—we say *found*, but perhaps that word will not convey a correct idea of this glorious event—the Apostles, we must remember, were *passive*, waiting in Jerusalem for the fulfilment of the promise which their blessed Master gave them before His departure from the scene of His earthly sufferings. But *we* must be *active* in the pursuit and attainment of this *treasure*. *We* must with great diligence and incessant prayers with faith, seek this treasure until we find it, until we find that the Spirit is filling our hearts with joy and gladness, and that we are beginning to see clearly those things of His