

through the Spirit? Ask yourselves the question whether the standard of devotion and consecration in this church with which most of you are connected, or in any church to which you may individually belong, looks like the presence of the Divine Spirit. A little handful of people, the best of them very partially touched with the life of God, surrounded by a great mass about which we can scarcely, in the judgment of charity, say even that—that is the description of most of our congregations. Do the relations of modern Christians and their churches one to another look like the presence of a unifying Spirit? We have all been made to drink into one Spirit, says Paul. Alas! alas! does it look like it? Look around professing Christendom. Look at the rivalries and the jealousies between two chapels on adjoining streets. Look at the gulfs between Christian men that are parted only by some comparative trifle of organization and polity, and is that all that the one Spirit that is to make all the members into one body has been able to do? Look at the comparative impotence of the church in its conflict with the growing worldliness of the age. Mark how in our big towns the populace knows nothing and cares nothing about your Christianity, and has no share in your hopes any more than if they lived in Central Africa, and that after eighteen centuries of nominal Christianity. If God be ‘with us,’ why is all this come upon us?”

This Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester, is one of the ablest of the living expositors of the “Word,” and