

circumcision made them Jews. As a general rule Christians do not appreciate because they do not know the great privilege of being made a member of Christ, of having the seed of a power planted within them which will enable them successfully to contend with the Spirit of Evil, which daily attacks the souls of men.

To illustrate the subject, without making light of the ordinance of baptism, suppose there was any way in which people might become members of the Royal Family of England, and so be made heirs of their privileges if they strictly obeyed certain laws. How eager all would be to learn the way ! no trouble would be spared, no sacrifice thought too great to obtain it. But because Christ's kingdom at present is spiritual, and so not outwardly visible, our faith is cold and dead. There is no doubt that the good rule of baptising children when they are eight days old is the one the Christian Church should begin to try and enforce, then one who really believes in the ordinance and the benefits to be received thereby would not be pained by seeing children die without being enrolled among Christ's lambs, and people would not be satisfied to live a great part of their lives, without availing themselves of so glorious a privilege. In Matt. xx. 23, Christ seems to say to the mother of Zebedee's children, while on earth you may have the great privilege of being baptized and partaking of my Holy Supper, but when I come as King, I will place those on my right hand who have loved and obeyed me, but of that you can know nothing now. Matt. xix. 13, shews that Christ blessed little children and put his hands on them. It was not needful that Christ should use water, he could give the spirit, without the water ; but the water, like the Church, is the channel through which his grace must flow. When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit