

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

This is an extensive subject, but we propose in this article to confine ourselves to one particular department of it, and that suggested by some experiences to which we have recently listened. We have met several who, during a short time in their religious life, have had peculiar intimacy with the Blessed Spirit, have walked in the perpetual sunshine of His presence, but who, by disobedience to His voice, or from desire to change, have forfeited their delightful experience, and have since that time walked in comparative darkness. To them this bright spot in their life is a cherished memory so sacred that very few are permitted to know of it. They themselves speak of it almost with bated breath, as a treasure irretrievably lost, never to be regained this side of heaven. They blame themselves, writing bitter things against themselves for their fatal acts of disobedience whereby the experience was lost, but have little or no hope concerning the future that they will ever have it restored to them. This thought of the impossibility of recovering their lost treasure has assumed the form of despair, and is always present as a check to aggressive work, and bids them, in seeming modesty, do no more than try to save their own souls. Indeed, in many cases it has become a species of mental disease, which renders all effort on the part of others to change their minds on this subject an almost hopeless task. Perhaps it is too strong language to use to call it a demoniacal possession, and yet the symptoms are so similar that it is questionable if that, after all, is not the right name for this torpor-like experience.

Now, that we may be both clear and explicit, we will take an example of this kind of experience as extreme as we can make it, that it may include as many of this class as possible who will see this article.

Here is one who, having got into the experience of perfect love, accepted without reserve the Holy Spirit in all his offices. He walked in the Spirit and minded not the things of the flesh. Walking in the Spirit he was guided by Him into all truth. Also, the wondrous joy and peace which can only be known by those who receive the Spirit in Pentecostal power was a constant possession. But now the Holy Spirit undertakes to lead out this person into work for the Master. He has long enough been resting in Beulah Land; he is now called to go out into an unknown land of usefulness. The command comes as an