

THE SPIRIT TEACHES ALL BELIEVERS.

II. But the meaning of these words is not exhausted in their application to the apostles. All God's children are taught of God: the Spirit is given to teach the entire body of Christ, and every individual member thereof. Without His teaching, a true knowledge of the kingdom of God in its doctrines, principles, and powers cannot be attained. The primary truth, even, that Jesus is Lord, is not known but by the Holy Ghost. All that we know of sin and holiness, of regeneration and sanctification, of brotherly love, of the deeper principles of Christian morality, is taught us by the Spirit of God. Our knowledge of spiritual things is precisely measured by the heavenly teaching received. Without the Spirit's leading, no soul can find its way from the darkness of nature into God's marvellous light, nor, after regeneration, advance a single step in the knowledge of Him "whom to know is eternal life." "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"; nor can the spiritual man grow in the knowledge of God, except as the Spirit carries forward his instruction. All this is certain from Scripture, and is believed by all God's children.

It is not meant that, in the process of teaching, the Spirit reveals to us any truths not contained in the written Word. This Word receives no supplement, for it is sufficient for all purposes of the Christian life. The teaching promised to disciples, and enjoyed by them, consists rather in the living application of truth which is clearly set forth in the inspired record, and not at all in fresh revelations. "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Unless we hold fast to the sufficiency of Scripture, error and false sentiment cannot be excluded; but not the less is it true that we can know God only as He Himself directly teaches us.

THE SPIRIT'S HELP IN THEOLOGY.

But we wish to speak more particularly of the promised guidance of the Spirit in its bearing upon theology, so far as theology consists in the scientific investigation of the facts and doctrines of Scripture, and the characteristics of Scripture itself.