

set forth under various forms of expression in the scriptures, most especially in those of the new covenant. The Lord, under the name of "Wisdom," has said, in Prov. i.—"Turn you at my reproof, behold I will pour out my spirit unto you;" and again, by His prophet Ezekiel He promised to His people of Israel,— "A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you;" but He also declared,— "I will be enquired of to do it for them." Our blessed Lord, in his interview with Nicodemus, declared in the emphatic words,— "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God;" and repeated,— "except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." We find the meaning of these words in His sayings on a subsequent occasion;—"It is the spirit that quickeneth. the flesh profiteth nothing, the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." It is further said in the gospel by John, of true believers in the Saviour, that they are "born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God;" and in Romans viii, it is declared, that "if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Numerous other passages in the New Testament declare the necessity of possessing and retaining the presence and operations of the Holy Spirit, in order to obtaining salvation from sin, acceptance with God, a state of holiness *here*, and eternal life *hereafter*. He then who sows to the spirit, receives through grace, and sows and cherishes in his conscience and heart, the good seed of repentance for all his previous transgressions. He further sows to the spirit, by constant and fervent prayer and supplication for continual and enlarged supplies of divine grace, that the heavenly kingdom may be increased and firmly established within him. His desires and affections are constantly going forth, in sincere and ardent praise and thanksgiving to his God and Saviour, for all His mercies and love towards him. Through divine power imparted, he sows the seed of precious justifying and sanctifying faith; the spiritual fruits of which scripture describes as "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." These precious fruits, while continuing faithful and obedient, he is constantly bearing and exhibiting. His sowing to the spirit is