

increase and extension are not confined to certain localities, but are manifest with tolerable equality over the whole Church.

Looking at the matter more specifically, it is easy to see evidences of the work which the Spirit is carrying on. Considering the natural coldness and ungodliness of the heart, we can easily see that when an interest in divine things is steadily kept up, when persons take pleasure in the public ordinances of religion, attending regularly on the means of grace, there must be some good influence producing this. There must be a constant excitation of religious feeling without which the sanctuary would be entirely neglected. And when this goes on from week to week, from year to year, it merely reveals an immense divine power constantly exerted. When there is a great relish for the word of life, when people hear it and meditate on it; when they feel that it penetrates to the very depth of their religious nature and evokes a hearty response, it is easy to see that both God's Word and His Spirit abide in the heart of His people. When there is a constant increase of faith, when religious principles are established, when doubts and fears are removed, this is surely due to divine grace which not only bestows faith, but also keeps it from failing and increases it. When Christians increase in excellence, in the discharge of duty with growing earnestness and consistency, this must be due to divine influences. When brotherly love continues and increases, when the Church makes increase of herself in love, this must be due to the Holy Spirit, for all Christian excellencies are His gifts. Such is the nature of the deep working of the Holy Spirit in the souls of men. They must recognize this when their heart burns within them. Their feelings and excellencies are not due to any inherent goodness in our fallen nature, but to an influence on the soul constantly exerted from without and from above, which alone can purify and elevate and ennoble.

But we should not confine our attention to the greatness and constancy of the Spirit's work, we should also consider His benevolence. This is, indeed, implied in all that has been said; but there are special things which reveal it in a more affecting manner. How kind must the Spirit be to strive with unbelieving and wicked minds! When you consider His essential holiness, His burning purity, how wonderful that He should abide at all in, or, indeed, ever visit, this