

guiling the roughness of the way that progress was made, and the progress in no way interfering with the communion, until the chariot of fire separated them, and Elijah was caught away in the whirlwind. As he rose, his mantle fell at the feet of Elisha, who took it, and rent *his own* clothes, as he wrapped himself in Elijah's mantle, and then descended to Jordan, dividing the waters as before, and crossing over. He returned as one who was dead to the world, and alive unto God. He had come back from the mount to resume the work left by the great prophet, to preach the truth to the people, heal their bitter waters, cure their barren land, and otherwise help them; and when they saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha."

Our beloved Master would lead us through the Jordan of separation from the world, that we may be dead to the fascination of the things of the world. And cannot we hear Him say, "Ask, and ye shall receive." Let us say with Elisha, give me the birthright portion, "the portion of goods that falleth to me." The humble and obedient servant may claim from the Master the inheritance of a son. Nothing will so please Him as this blessed familiarity of heart, this demand on His grace and wealth. He will not say, "Thou hast asked a hard thing," for "God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, whereby we cry Abba, Father." But can we receive the blessing of the birthright portion of His Spirit on these terms? "If thou shalt see me," is as true now, as then. A distracted mind will not hold an ascended Lord in view; an eye caught by all the passing vanities and beauties of the world, will be unsteady in its gaze on Him. An eye looking at the ruggedness of the path, and a heart groaning over the hardness of the journey, will not be rapt in that hallowed communion, so that the two can go on and talk. But how much easier we find it, to be discussing difficulties and surroundings, instead of communing with Him! Fix the eye on the risen Lord,— "Looking unto Jesus." Behold Him, and see Him on the right hand of the throne of the Father, that He may dispense the blessings of the throne, that He may empower the watchful and communing servant. Has he not said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, that will I do." Has He not said, "If any man lack, let Him ask of God." Then we may expect the mantle of our Elijah to fall upon us, and we may take it up and wear it. He said to the disciples, "Tarry in Jerusalem till ye receive the promise of the Father." It was the Holy Spirit of power whom they were to receive; that same Spirit that had enfolded Him and endowed Him with power for His service and ministry. Oh, wonderful equipment for the work He has left to our hands; wonderful mantle of

light and strength! But to lay hold of it, we need to rend our own clothes first. All self-esteem and self-seeking must be put off, and rent in two. No more of our own comeliness, or covering of our own making, no self-righteousness; no power of the natural mind can harmonize with His mantle. Put off all these, and put on the Lord Jesus. How blessedly He has kept the promises He made, for from the throne to which He was lifted by the power of God, He now sends down the same power to lift us up also. It is quite easy to rise by this power. The mantle will fit closely, and cover all our weakness, and the testimony will be the same of us as of Elisha. "The Spirit of Christ doth rest" on the Christian.

In conclusion, let us look at Eph. iii. 20, "Unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." We have not to force this power into ourselves, or try to produce it. If we have received the Holy Spirit, then the power worketh in us, and He who has sent this power, is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think." Let us, then, face all our difficulties with this fact, "the power worketh in us." Let us meet all temptation of Satan and sin, with "the power that worketh in us." Let us dare to attempt work for God and to proclaim the Gospel by "the power that worketh in us;" and say with the apostle in Phil. iv. 13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Let us banish the oft-heard excuse for not serving the Master, "I can't," or "I am not fit," or "I am not accustomed to do this or that;" and say instead, "Here am I, send me." Clinging to the mighty One, and looking unto Jesus, we shall be able for all that He is able, and "His strength shall be made perfect in our weakness."

Frescoes.

The following inscription is from the walls of a church in Lubeck.

You call Me Master—and you do not ask My will.

You call Me Light—and you see Me not.

You call Me the Road—and follow Me not.

You call Me the Wise—and imitate Me not.

You call Me Life—and you desire Me not.

You call Me Good—and love Me not.

You call Me Rich—and from Me ask nothing.

You call Me Eternal—and yet do not seek Me.

You call Me Merciful—but do not trust in Me.

You call Me Noble—and do not serve Me.

You call Me All-powerful—and do not honor Me.

You call Me Just—and do not fear Me.

When I condemn you, therefore blame Me not for it.