

through the medium of the written Word. Had the speaker said that all true leadings of the Spirit would be in *accordance* with the written Word, and never in *opposition* to its teaching, we should not have taken exception to his remarks, but the entire tenor of his words was to enforce the position taken, that the Spirit only through the Scriptures made revelation of the will of God to us. For a moment I thought questioningly, Was it through the medium of the written Word that you were chosen and commissioned to preach the gospel? How could you possibly through that medium only know that you were called of God to the work of the ministry? I thought of Philip bidden to go toward the south from Jerusalem to Gaza, by a desert way. How, just at the right moment, there came in view a chariot, in which sat a man of great authority under Queen Candace, and he was reading that wonderful prophecy of Isaiah, so accurately descriptive of the great events which had taken place in Jerusalem, and of which he had undoubtedly been told, as he was now returning from that city, whither he had been to worship. Providence had been before the evangelist and fully prepared the way, and at the opportune moment *the Spirit* said unto Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." What was the result of Philip's obedience? An opportunity to preach Jesus from the Scripture, the eunuch was reading, and a convert to Christianity, now on the spot!

There was a harmonious agreement of divine providence, the written Word, and the Holy Spirit to bring about this very thing, and either, alone would have failed. When, therefore, a minister, or anybody else, teaches us that the Bible alone is the true, safe and only guide, it is an ignoring of the office work of the Spirit which casts dishonor upon that divine personage.

Peter had a vision designed to prepare him to obey the call of Cornelius, but it needed the voice of the Spirit to convince him it was right to go to one of another nation and preach to him the gospel of Christ. While he was in doubt respecting the meaning of the singular vision, *the Spirit said unto him*, "Behold, three men seek thee . . . go with them nothing doubting, for I have sent them." God by His providence had previously prepared the way for his reception; He found Cornelius with his kinsmen and near friends ready and waiting for the preaching of that word which was to be the power of God unto their salvation. These instances are sufficient to illustrate the fact that the Bible clearly reveals to us the method of divine guidance—its threefold character; the Spirit by its illumination of the written Word, bringing to bear upon the understanding that specific truth adapted to the occasion, and special providence co-operating therewith so as to open the way for the successful accomplishment of the appointed work.

The reader will pardon the writer if, in confirmation of this position, a personal incident is related. About six years ago we were purposing to leave home by the noon train, for a few days' visit to a friend. It was a