

if they were not at the same time encouraged to expect from their Heavenly Father those abundant graces of His Holy Spirit which will assuredly be communicated through prayer and the laying on of hands to all those who come with loving faith to receive the Heavenly gift.

What are we to bid simple persons to look for in Confirmation, *except those very gifts which are asked for on their behalf?* "The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and the spirit of God's holy fear." Let us teach them to expect the gift of the Holy Ghost, the soul-pervading influence, the inward comfort and guidance of the Third Person of the God-head; the warmth of divine love kindling the purest affections in their hearts, the divine wisdom ennobling the higher spiritual powers of the reason; the infusion of larger and purer knowledge; the practical guidance of the spirit of counsel, helping them to form true judgments in cases of apparently conflicting duties; the inspiration of divine reverence. These are the inward life and grace of Confirmation. Herein to every faithful recipient is fulfilled our Saviour's own gracious assurance, "I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth;" that Spirit of Whom the Apostle spoke