

effect our nature, it does not destroy the propensity—it does not change the inner man. This is an after work wrought *in the soul* by the spirit of God: and a work without which no man can see God. And every Christian who does not possess it, must be hourly admonished, by the working of the old leaven of the carnal nature, that such a work is necessary to a complete victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Psalmist David seemed to feel its necessity, when he so pathetically pleaded *with God* for a clean heart and the renewal of a right spirit within him. If therefore the christian be satisfied with the *external gift*, without the *internal change* and seek for no higher attainments, he lowers the standard of the gospel, and contents himself with the form without the power, which course can never be approved of God, or useful to man!

The spirit may, therefore, be quenched by light and trifling conversation; by associating with the ungodly, and openly profane; by luke-warmness, by obstinacy and self-will, by the indulgence of evil thoughts, or passions; by the indulgence of worldlymindedness; by the neglect of *watchfulness*, *Sobriety*, and *prayer*; or by a refusal to acknowledge Christ as our only hope—our only salvation. But, it becomes necessary that we pass to notice in the

FOURTH particular; The reasons why we should not “quench” the “spirit”—we offer two reasons. 1. Rea. It is a direct insult to God; in as much as he has charged us not to do it, & more than intimated what the consequence would be if it were done. The 2. reason is, it will be attended with the most fatal results in respect to those who do it. We have said that as heat, or fire was necessary to animal life so is the spirit of God necessary to the life of the soul. And hence, it follows, that if the spirit be quenched, the soul must not only remain in a state of darkness; but it is morally dead. And if it remain in a dark and lifeless state, in time, can we reasonably suppose that the shade and vale of death will alter its wretched condition? no: surely not. Not only will moral, or spiritual death, be felt here, but the pains of eternal death—the gnawings of the undying worm—the burnings of the unquenchable fire—will result to such as “quench the spirit.” These considerations, therefore should operate as reasons, or motives for not quenching it.

Having thus briefly noticed the effects of the Holy spirit when suffered to operate upon the heart we come now to offer a few thoughts by way of improvement. “Quench not the spirit.” Does it move upon thy dark and benighted soul, O sinner! hast thou been taught by its influences to distinguish between that which is *right*, and that which is *wrong*, to look upon thyself as lost, eternally lost without an interest in Jesus; without having thy life hid with Christ in God! O! let me entreat thee to cherish the heavenly messenger to give him thy heart, to subscribe his terms of peace, and thereby good shall assuredly come unto thee. As you value your soul,—as you would escape the damnation of hell, as you would secure the friendship of God, and the intercessions of Jesus Christ, do not quench the spirit!

But, have you so far cherished this messenger of mercy, as to have experienced its *refining* influences in the separation of your guilt and condemnation from you, and purging your soul from all dead works, raising you from the death of sin to the life of God—in saving you from being a child of the devil, and adopting you into the family of heaven? If you have felt it