

grace in which these and other means, such as the special revelation, are illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and the believer's vision of God is greatly strengthened and extended. (3) The direct shining of the Holy Ghost, in which the soul forgets itself and all other things, and God possesses it wholly. The human spirit becomes as wax in which the Divine Spirit makes his own perfect image. Through this direct communion there is acquired a knowledge of God and of divine things which can never be attained by the intellect alone, which cannot be analyzed or explained, or expressed in terms of any speech, or even of a special revelation. The very essence of this system of thought is, that God cannot reveal Himself so fully in anything else as in the essence, and through the experiences of the human soul.

In one form or another we have the Mystic in every age. When the church has too strongly emphasized the intellectual element in religion, stiffening figures of speech into dogmas, or laying exclusive stress upon ritualistic observances as the only channels of grace, the mystics have been the salt of the earth, appealing from the pomp and formalism of dead works to the inner experience of things invisible to intellectual sight.

The Mystic theory of the operation of the Holy Spirit lingers among us in the doctrine of the "Inner Light" held by the Society of Friends. This is a divine influence possessed in some degree by all men. It convicts of sin, and if attended to, gives power to the sinner to overcome and forsake it, enables the man who follows it to understand the Scriptures, gives the soul a living experience of salvation and an assurance of its everlasting welfare. A Christian ministry may be exercised only by the propulsion of the Spirit as to time, place, and substance of teaching. Consequently there must be no preparation of sermons or pre-arrangement of services, for that would be to limit the free course of the Divine Spirit. Every minister must lay himself open before the Lord and give out the message committed to him. All outward forms, such as Baptism and the Lord's Supper, have been done away in