

reaches the goal, and comes in the winner of the race; or it means to reach maturity, as the babe passes from babyhood to boyhood and into manhood, with all a man's powers.

Now, dear friends, these three several thoughts, it appears to me, are bound up in the passage before us, for, while only one of these words is used here, the Scripture, taken as a whole, offers perfection to you and to me in its entirety, and the Spirit of God is willing to make us perfect in the largest and fullest sense. This He has accomplished for some. For the rest, He stands ready to do it. First, He is willing to make us like fresh, luscious fruit. God the Husbandman is coming into the garden of our lives for fruit, and as He comes, He longs to gather fruit and press it to His lips, that shall be not over ripe or under ripe, but fresh and sweet and good for eating. If the Spirit of God works mightily in you and in me, we shall not fail to bring forth fruit to the Lord, to the joy of His heart; and He will be delighted over us, as a husbandman delights over his perfect fruit. Then, too, as many of us have been sadly out of joint with Christ, the Spirit longs to put us into joint with Him. You and I, in our regeneration, have been put judicially into absolute union, and into perfect adjustment with the Christ of God; but the question remains, what has our life been? Has God been free to move us as parts of His own body, as the head directs the arm, and the arm moves the hand? Possibly we have been so utterly out of joint with Him that the arm and hand hang almost paralyzed by our side, and God has not been able to do with us what He might have done had we only been in adjustment with Him. Now, to-night, the Holy Spirit desires to take our lives, and put us into our proper place as parts of Christ's body, so that He can use us according to the good pleasure of His will. Then, also, He wants us to reach the winning post, and not to be content with anything short of pressing hard on in our calling, that we may finish our course with joy; and God wants us to pass out of babyhood into the full measure of the stature of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us bear now these three thoughts in mind as we proceed. The Holy Spirit, who has spoken so solemnly to us in these meetings, has made true in some of our lives this perfectness, and to such He says that He wants us to be "thus minded." What does this mean? To find this out we must go back to that verse in the chapter, the 11th, which tells us about a resurrection even in the present time. There is to be a glorious resurrection by-and-bye, when our blessed Lord at last shall come, and, oh, how quickly it will take place then, "in the twinkling of an eye," or, as the original implies, in the