

Himself, then and there present in and through his appointed means of grace. Unbelief and impenitence are the bar to the benefits received thereby. But a child is incapable of either. In the case of a child, therefore, there is no bar to Divine Grace. So, when a child has been baptized, we declare with all confidence, that it is "regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ's Church," and proceed to "give thanks to Almighty God for these benefits." Baptism is "by water and the Spirit." That self-same Spirit, Who in the creation of the world "moved upon the face of the waters" has now His especial abode in the Church on earth. Moving on the face of the waters of Holy Baptism, He makes them to be the water of regeneration. As by generation a child is born into this world, so in Holy Baptism it is spiritually reborn, made "a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven." By "regeneration" we do not mean *conversion*. It does not necessarily imply conversion. But it does imply that if there be no subsequent devotion of heart and life to God, it is because the baptized have sinned against God's grace, and "counted the blood of the covenant wherewith they were sanctified an unholy thing, "and have done despite to the Spirit of grace."

"Do you mean then that the baptized child has grace and blessing which he would not otherwise have?" Certainly. How could it be otherwise? Baptism is by the Living Lord. It is by "water and the Spirit." It is ingrafting into Christ, the true vine. It pledges grace and blessing, the manifold

gifts of the Holy Ghost. It does not however insure salvation here or hereafter; but it does insure all the means thereto. In the very nature of the case, therefore, the baptized child is the recipient of Divine Grace in Baptism. It cannot therefore but have blessing which otherwise it would not have. Will you then, by your neglect, deprive your child of blessing? If, as God's Word doth assert, grace is thereby given and received, will you, by your negligence, keep back your child from blessing? Will you presume to estimate or lightly esteem its value? Oh parents! careful and anxious for your little ones as to many things, can you, dare you, keep your child from the inestimable blessing of being made "a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven?" From Christ the great Head of the Church, flows life and grace to every member of His mystical body; just as, from the stem of the vine, its forces flow into every living branch and leaf and twig. There may indeed be the dead branches, and nowise partakers of the life of the vine. So also it may be, and, alas, often is the case, as to those once made members of Christ. See to it therefore, as you fear God and love your little ones as your own souls, that, not only they have the inestimable blessings of ingrafting into Christ, but that, by your Christian example, your watchful care, your teaching and your prayers, they may, by God's grace, remain living members of Christ!—*Rev. A. W. Snyder.*

"SUFFER the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not."