

the basis of all Christian perfection *an experience* attained by an act of faith, is very evident from a preceding paragraph in the same section. "Upon the whole," he says, "it is, I think, undeniable, from the four first chapters of the Acts, that a peculiar power of the Spirit is bestowed upon believers under the Gospel of Christ; that this power, through *faith* on our part, can operate the most sudden and surprising change in our souls; and that when our faith shall fully embrace the promise of full sanctification, or of a complete circumcision of the heart in the Spirit, the Holy Ghost, who kindled so much love on the day of Pentecost, that all the primitive believers loved, or seemed to love, each other perfectly, will not fail to help us to love one another without sinful self-seeking; and as soon as we do so, "God dwelleth in us and His love is perfected in us."

"Should you ask how many baptisms or effusions of the sanctifying Spirit are necessary to cleanse a believer from all sin, and to kindle his soul into perfect love, I reply that the effect of a sanctifying truth depending upon the ardour of the faith with which that truth is embraced, and upon the power of the Spirit with which it is applied, I should betray a want of modesty if I brought the operations of the Holy Spirit and the energy of faith under a rule which is not expressly laid down in the Scriptures. . . . If one powerful baptism of the Spirit seal you unto the day of redemption, and cleanse you from all filthiness, so much the better. If two or more be necessary, the Lord can repeat them."

These testimonies are from the two great witnesses of early Methodism. I will place beside these some from the other sections of God's people.

Robert Barclay, the theologian of the Society of Friends, after defending at length the doctrine of Christian Perfection, concludes as follows: "Blessed are they that believe in Him, who is both able and willing to deliver as many as come to Him through true *repentance from all sin*, and do not resolve, as these men do, to be the devil's servants all their lifetime, but daily go on *forsaking unrighteousness*, and forgetting those things that are behind, 'press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' Such shall