

Moses backslide when he sinned in the smiting of the rock? Did not Peter backslide when he denied his Master? God is the judge of those pious persons whose names you quoted, and he who would not let down his law to accommodate his servant Moses, will not let it down for the accommodation of any modern saint, though he should have all the excellences of Fenelon,* Kempis, Madame Guyon, Countess of Huntington, Wesley, Fletcher, Walsh, McCheyee, Phebe Palmer and Bishop Taylor, concentrated in his one character. "The soul that sinneth it shall die," the first sin is the first step in backsliding, and is a step toward death, for "God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

All that talk about an ideally absolute law of perfection which we cannot help breaking, and for the breaking of which we need continually to go to the cross for pardon, is entirely without Biblical foundation. God has no law to which man is amenable that he has not caused to be written in his book somewhere, and he expressly said by Ezekiel in the 36th chapter, that in the time that was then future, and which is now present, "And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them." That is, the Spirit who filled with himself the hundred and twenty, the three thousand, the Samaritans after Peter and John went down to them, the Cesarean congregation gathered by Cornelius, Saul of Tarsus when Ananias went to him, and the twelve disciples at Ephesus. That was entire sanctification in strict accordance with Ezekiel's prophecy quoted above, and it came right soon after "Justification."

I have as much reason to love the memory of Wesley and Fletcher and the other Methodist notabilities as any one, being of the fourth generation of Methodists. But I have a wholesale remem-

brance of the inspired malediction which says, "Cursed is he that trusteth in man, or maketh flesh his aim, whose heart departeth from the living God." And that living God is pledged as my theological teacher directly and individually; by the Lord Jesus Christ himself in John xiv-13 and xvi-13-14. I am so taught, to me he has shewn these things, and the contrary cannot be proved. I put the communion of the Holy Ghost above the communion of saints, and the Divine Doctor of Divinity above all the discordant theologians of earth. I "cease from *mine* whose breath is in his nostrils."

So much for the positive side of this question. On the other, in addition to what I mentioned of personal experience in the beginning of this letter, I may say, that the many indirect, and occasional direct confessions of failures and shortcomings on the part of some of the most prominent advocates of the creed of the modern holiness movement, together with my own dissatisfaction with my spiritual condition, helped to prepare me for the truth by the soul-hunger and restlessness produced. For what use is a theory of holiness which in its best exponents becomes an inevitable failure in practice? What better in life are these men than are many of those who antagonize them? If "Holy" people do not perfectly keep God's law what is their holiness good for?

You have been a standard bearer of the "doctrine," and yet I heard you a few years ago at a conference holiness meeting confess failures and speak of your failures being under the blood etc. But whether you took blame to yourself for them or not it was difficult to discover from your language.

Well, to conclude, since I have given the Holy Spirit right of way, absolute universal control of my being, I have had *perfect satisfaction*. For Christ's word never fails, "Take *my* yoke upon you, and ye shall find REST unto your souls."

Your fraternally, B. SHERLOCK.