

not close without answering the common query, How can I enjoy this experience?

1. You must give yourself up to Him. Only to such docile souls does He reveal the comforts of grace. He convinces the sinner of wrath and judgment, but the sweet and assuring words of truth and love are given to those alone who submit wholly to His sway.

2. Prayer is an avenue of communication of this blessing. More willing is God to give this gift than are parents to bestow their favors on beloved children. Ask and ye shall receive. You will prove the fact of the Divine indwelling, and know that God is in you and that you are in God.

3. Obedience is all important. When you hear the call and see the duty, instantly respond. But how can I detect, you ask, between the Divine voice and my own promptings? How does a wife, I answer, know the footstep of her dear husband on the sidewalk or threshold, and how is she able to distinguish it from a hundred other tramping feet? She has learned to listen for it. She has often watched and waited. Sometimes she has made a mistake, but the longer she has waited and listened the more accurate has become her knowledge. Is the Holy Spirit's voice dear and familiar to you? Then you need not mistake it. Brought into sweet fellowship of speech, concord of feeling, and obedient service, you will realize the plenary significance of this benediction, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." You will feel the fulness of that promise, John xvii. 22, "I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that Thou didst send Me and lovest them, even as Thou lovest Me."

LET all churches beware of crushing dissent. Blows aimed at our Christian neighbors recoil upon ourselves.—*Findlay.*

STRIKING THOUGHTS FROM RECENT SERMONS.

THE Bible is a book of reality. A study of it shows it a reality in origin, having arisen from definite circumstances, definite experiences, from the lives of many men. Some think religion comes out of the Bible. It is not so. The Bible is the product of religion. Religion is the spiritual relation between man and man, and out of the reality of religion came the Bible. Every book in it is the work of men who endured under real and holy experiences, ranging through different ages, in different tongues and of diverse characters. But yet each book is compatible with the rest. The Bible is the fruit grown out of the ground from the seed from heaven, planted by God in the image of His Son. And Christ was a real man. He was more real than any of us, because He was free from sin, and sin is not a part of the real man.—*Burroughs.* (Luke xvi. 29-31.)

ARE we ready to surrender the American Sabbath? At present assaults are made by three classes. The first is by foreigners who have brought here their Old-World notions of a work-day or a holiday, and they hate a legalized Sunday. The second class assailing the American Sunday is a large number of Europeanized Yankees, who think that when they die they would rather go to Paris than paradise. The third class is a little knot of atheists, banded under the term of "Secular Union." They have been looking for a pretext to attack the American Sabbath. They think they have found it in the Fair. They say: "Is not the Fair a public institution? Are not the laboring people to enjoy it?" I say, keep the doors shut. Keep them shut because the fourth commandment says, "Keep the Sabbath holy." Have any of you heard of the decalogue being superseded? As long as the way to the Fair is barred by the flaming sword of that commandment I am in favor of Sunday closing. Again I appeal to your patriotism. The American Sunday is an American institution. We will show our visitors from abroad a grand sight, but the grandest will be our America Sunday. There is nothing like it. It is as much of an American institution as the ballot-box or the public school system. An open Fair would not be fair to the employés. It would not do to give them a slice off of Tuesday or Thursday. Sunday has a different meaning from other days. In the name of thousands of employés I protest.—*Martyn.* (Ex. xx. 8.)

THE world sadly needs a revival of true love; of heroism. The hero is one who undergoes suffering and toil to benefit others. Love seeks to benefit others, selfishness seeks to please them. The Gospel is not given to make men comfortable, but to save them from sin; comfort in sin is death. The Gospel does bring joy and gladness, but it is because it saves from sin. Duty always brings joy; but the aim is to please God and benefit man, not to please man without reference to God. We are to consider not what the world likes, but what the world needs. Christ did not come into the world to supply a demand. Alas! there was no demand for Him. When an infant they found "no room for Him at the inn," and all through "His own received Him not." The state of the human heart is nowhere more clearly seen than in the fact that "when men saw perfect goodness they crucified it." The kingdom of God is like leaven which causes a ferment and disturbs the peace of the world. "Except a man deny himself," said the Master, "he cannot be my disciple." Repentance is self-denial, and faith is self-renunciation. The Christian is as a candle on a candle-stick, consuming itself in order to give light to others. Said a missionary: "Send me to the darkest and hardest and most degraded place in the world." Does this seem hard to you? Did you