

not overthrow the argument, at least weaken its impression. And the difficulties which attend any book which touches on so many mysteries and impinges on such momentous practical interests as the Bible can easily be magnified so as to shut out the proper impression which the argument is fitted to make. The impression, moreover, made by the marks of divinity found in Scripture depends largely on the moral and spiritual condition of the person who studies them. In the purely intellectual sphere, the strength of conviction is regulated by the nature and amount of the evidence presented to the understanding; but in the moral and spiritual sphere, the strength of the conviction is often in the inverse ratio of the evidence. It is a proverbially bootless task to convince a man against his will. It is only the pure in heart who see God. And except a man be born again he cannot *see* the kingdom of God. A mind swayed by pride, prejudice, and passion, does not perceive "the heavenliness of the matter" found in Scripture. It is only the musical ear that perceives the beauties of musical harmonies, and it is only the heart which, by "the inward work of the Holy Spirit," has been made receptive of the truth to which the truth is unveiled in its beauty. This is the explanation why men with ample evidence, external and internal, before them fail to reach a divine faith, until the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the truth in their hearts, overcomes their questionings and enables them to rest with full persuasion and assurance in the infallible truth and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures.

II. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE?

It may aid us in answering this question to remember that this witness is just one phase of the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the heart. And it is admitted by all Christians, with, perhaps, the exception of a few enthusiasts, that the Spirit does not now give objective revelations to men. His work in our day is to enlighten the mind and renew the will, so that men perceive, in its real significance and in its relation to themselves, what has already been revealed in the Word, and rest upon it as an undoubted verity.

"The Bible reveals and verifies its authority only to regenerated men. Only they are competent to judge it, and pronounce upon its true character, its purpose, and its value." (Rooke,