

trov any, who disobeyed the Gospel, and refused him their allegiance. And all this, quite consistently with the nature of man, and with what Christ had foretold—He said “ I will send the Comforter unto you, and when he is come, he will reprove, or convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”—“ of sin *because they believe not in me*”—How ! “ He shall testify of me, and ye also shall *bear witness* because ye have been with me from the beginning,” (John xv. 27. and xiv. 26. Acts ii.) “ The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit (or scope) of Prophecy.”

And does not God, equally, in these last days, speak to us, in order to influence us, as he did in times past to the Fathers, *by his spirit* in the prophets and apostles—(see Neh. ix. 30. Zech. vii. 12. Acts vii 51. Heb. i. 1, 2. and ii. 1–4.)—and does not his word still endure, (1 Pet. i. 23–25.) and is *it* not, now (as the inspiration of God) still “ profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim. iii. 16. We believe that it is ; and that the Scriptures contain all the motives, or moral power which God has revealed for enlightening, and converting sinners to Himself—that “ the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.” Rom. i. 16.

The power of the word of God consists in the sentiment which it contains ; but that sentiment can have no more influence over the person who is unacquainted with it, than if it did not exist. Moreover it is not to be expected that men will become acquainted with the contents of that book, who have no religious bias, until there is something, to call up their attention. It is not, therefore, to be supposed that the Bible will have any more power over the man who keeps ten thousand copies of the Scriptures on hand for sale, and at the same time remains entirely ignorant of its contents, than over a heathen who never lived within five thousand miles of the volume, or of any being, who ever heard of it. That it contains the requisite information to make a man wise to salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus, we are assured ; but that a careless world will collect that information from it without having their attention excited to it, is not supposable. See Rom. x. 14–17.

It was of the Old Testament Scriptures that Paul spoke, when he told Timothy that “ from a child” he had “ known the Holy Scriptures which were able to make him wise to salvation ;” and yet we find, that great exertions were made to call up the attention of the Jews, to the examination of their contents.

The word, is often made of none effect, and arguments enforcing its efficacy and power, weakened—by receiving for doctrines, that the word is a dead letter, that no man can rightly understand or obey it, unless he *previously* receive a special and supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, quite abstract from the