

God" (1 Cor. ii. 14); and so it comes to pass that carnal Christians, and unconverted church members and adherents, fail to comprehend the Holy Spirit's personal presence and power and mode of operations; although they may learn much of the letter of the Word, and of the leading doctrines which it unfolds.

Church history shews that the simplicity of Pentecostal times, as described in the Acts of the Apostles, was not long preserved. The deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans, or clerisy, soon made its appearance. The royal priesthood of all believers was soon lost sight of, and an order of men established as a professional clergy to perform the religious work of the Church. The unholy alliance between the Church and the world was consummated, and with but very few exceptions, the professing Church became a mass of nominal Christians, without the life of God, or the power of the Holy Spirit. Under these circumstances it is little wonder that the very simplest fundamental truths of the Gospel soon became almost lost sight of.

After the dense darkness of the Middle Ages, Luther and other early Reformers, by the study of the Word, under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, brought to light "Justification by Faith," and many other truths of Scripture; and the preaching of the Gospel was blessed of God to the salvation of many souls. But the principles of Church organization and government, which prevailed before the Reformation, continued in various forms and degrees in the different denominations, which followed the teaching of certain distinguished leaders to whom they owed their origin; and these leaders seem to have relied mainly on the example of the early Church, after the days of Pentecostal simplicity were over, if they did not almost slavishly follow that of the Romish Church during the Middle Ages. In England and Germany the forms were much the same, but the Sovereign of the State, instead of the Pope of Rome, was recognized as the head of the Church. In Scotland the Presbyterian form of government was adopted, instead of the Episcopal, but the Sovereign was there also recognized as the head of the relig-