

are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into his harvest."

The "disciples of the Lord," who were sent out by Him into all the world to teach all nations, to preach the gospel to every creature under heaven, (*) represent all the truths of the word, taken collectively; all of which must be employed in the service of the Lord's kingdom; and the Lord's words of compassion, which I have so often quoted, denote in the individual spiritual sense: the clear perception of the so far advanced soul, that there is Divine Life from the Lord in all the truth he has learned and yet learns from the Bible; that the Bible is thus indeed the *Word of God*; that God himself speaks in it to his soul; and that He has provided for him therein, all spiritual food and nourishment, necessary for his eternal life and comfort, more fully, than the natural world provides for the natural body.—O, what a heavenly joy fills our hearts, when we are able to embrace the Bible with certainty as the Word and Testament of our Father in heaven! When we know, that this book contains the "*spirit and life*" of our Lord, as His Humanity on earth contained His infinite Divinity! A stream of heavenly delight, zeal and ardor, passes sensibly through us, when we hear Him say: "*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.*"

The "*harvest*," in a literal and personal sense, denotes those who are prepared and waiting to be gathered into the church on earth by the ministry of the word; but in the interior sense, the "*harvest*" signifies all things which spiritually nourish the soul, and which have reference to truths of Doctrine and goods of life. It also signifies the separation of evil from good and of falsity from truth. (See A. E. 911.)

When we begin to see this heavenly food, this harvest of the soul, and desire to use it for the nourishment of our understanding and will, in order to *live* by it, then the process of regeneration has effectually begun, and will soon bring about a *judgment* in our minds which will separate the principles of the newly commenced *heavenly life from the Lord*, and the opposite principle of our own *selfish life of sin*, which is *from hell*.—The Lord then has His "*fan in His hand and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into his garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*" (†) When we thus become fixed

(*) See Matt, xxviii, 19; Marc xvi, 15; Col. i, 23. (†) Matt, iii, 12.