

It was not till he ascended up on high, and led captivity captive, that he received gifts for men, that the Lord God, the Spirit, might dwell amongst them. And then, when the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples, in that fulness, which is the glory, and the characteristic of the Christian dispensation, their words had a power which instantaneously threw down the strongholds of Sin, and Satan, carried conviction to the understanding, and produced an overwhelming impression upon the heart, so that sinners were converted in multitudes, and the Church increased by thousands, as the fruits of a single sermon. Nor were these manifestations of divine power accompanying the preaching of the gospel, confined to the day of Pentecost, or the apostolic age. We have the promise that the Spirit is to abide in the church for ever, and if we pray earnestly for the Spirit, and welcome him into our hearts, and really have him dwelling *with* us, and abiding *in* us, we shall not only grow in grace, and walk in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, but we shall see the power of the truth exerting its legitimate influence over the hearts of men, humbling proud sinners, subduing their rebellious will, bringing them to Jesus, and making them a willing people in the day of his power. Let the gospel be but faithfully and fully preached, accompanied with earnest prayer, and longing desires for the promotion of God's glory, and the conversion of sinners, and just because the Spirit, with his omnipotent power, is in the church still, it is impossible that it can be without effect. The effect may not be so great as desired, and expected, but an effect there will be. Sinners may not be converted in large numbers; but conversions there will be; the progress of corruption will be stayed, God's people will be built up, precious seed will be sown, and the preparation made for a glorious harvest, which another may be honoured to reap and gather in.