

bodies are his temples, guiding them into all truth, influencing their prayers and all their good works. In the above quotation the Holy Spirit is called a seal and an earnest a double security to the believer. The seal binds in the covenant. No man may reverse the writing in the name and sealed with the ring of the Persian king, how much surer this writing of the Lord and the human soul in covenant. The Greek in purchasing from the Persian the fine fabrics in merchantile dealing, gave a piece of gold as an earnest which confirmed the contract, this the Persian kept till the remainder was paid and the Greek who returned not to fulfil the contract, lost the earnest. In this case the earnest makes the inheritance sure, the earnest is never lost. The word Holy generally comes before the Spirit, which is not always applied in the use of Father and Son, not because there is any distinction but because it is the work of the Spirit to make us holy. Then he is called the spirit of promise for two reasons, he is the promised spirit of the New Covenant, as the Holy Child Jesus was the promise of the Old Testament. As the desire of all nations, the expectation of his people, the fulfilment of prophecies and promises, Christ came. The disciples were commanded to tarry at Jerusalem till they were endued with power from on high to wait for the promise which they had from Christ, they waited, and the fiftieth day, the first day of the week Pentecost, the promise was fulfilled, the Spirit came, they were furnished, endued, endowed for the work and went forth to conquer the world for their risen Lord. Then he is the spirit of promise, because he usually, if not always, raises the hopes, exalts the mind and more clearly opens up the way of the soul by a promise. Peter bears his infallible testimony here to the power of the promises. Exceeding great and precious by which we are made partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the pollutions in the world through lusts. The word exceeding is the hyperbole so often used in the latter writings of the apostles, an indefinite word expressing an unknown quantity to us, what we cannot measure in the bulk fathom, in depth, nor measure, in latitude, or longitude, nor by diameters, immeasurably incomprehensibly great, the excellence of the new economy above the old, the excellence of the Christian above the Jewish dispensation exceed in glory, the voice from the excellent glory, from heaven itself, how well applied to the promises of God, which are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Are they not worthy of all faith, all trust, all confidence. Canaan was the land of promise, Isaac was by promise, Christ by promise, the Spirit by promise, salvation, eternal life, heaven, all by promise. Should any of my readers be without Christ, a stranger to the covenant of promise, under the wrath of God and exposed at any moment to the pouring out on him that wrath to the uttermost. What profit can he gain by the world, or pleasure, or wealth and loose his own soul, fail to obtain eternal life, and be cast away for the ages of ages, into the blackness of darkness, to take part only in the eternal wail of the lost? Think fellow mortal of your danger and be persuaded to escape from it. Will you be satisfied with the excuse that you could not fathom the mysteries of religion? That you could not believe in a God or a heaven you never saw is no plea for how much do you believe in that lies in the region of the invisible. Your sin is against the living God that has lent you your existence. He opens the door of His kingdom to you and you pass it by and transgress against your own soul, prefer death to life, turn the truth of it into a lie, worship the creature in the face, under the eyes of the Creator. You reject the atonement made by the Son of God that sacrifice of the sincerest and purest love ever unfolded in the created universe. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life. By giving His life, shedding His blood, He redeemed us.