

After much prayer for divine guidance, I began to act on this principle of "living by faith," on the first of July, 1864, and have never regretted the step. The Lord has never forsaken us, but has granted many tokens of his gracious care, whereby our faith in all his word and ways has been strengthened. That this is the gospel plan, God's plan, the plan upon which all the apostles and early missionaries in Scripture times, proceeded, is as manifest as possible. There is certainly neither precept nor precedent for the modern method of *hiring* a minister, accepting of the patronage of worldly and immoral persons towards sustaining him, and having recourse to bazaars, tea-meetings, worldly frolics, under the name of "donation visits," &c., in order to obtain money for carrying on the Lord's work. Can any one wonder that such an evil tree should yield such evil fruits as we are compelled to see and grieve over everywhere? "Alas! how are the mighty fallen!" "How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed!" How has the ministry everywhere fallen into contempt; and religion itself made a laughing stock, because of the worldliness and levity of those who profess to be the followers of Jesus. The godly everywhere see and mourn over this state of things, but they confess their inability to remedy it. Reformation is quite out of the question. All hope of such a thing under present circumstances is virtually abandoned. In fact an apostate church is never reformed. Reformations there have been in all ages of Christianity, on a smaller or larger scale; but so far as my knowledge of Church history goes, reformation always means *secession*. When the mass has become so corrupt that godly discipline cannot be maintained, the minority have but one course opened before them—THEY MUST LEAVE. The principles laid down in 2 Cor. vi., and 2 Tim. iii., are too plain to be misunderstood. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, or what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial, [or Satan], or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God: as God hath said, I dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE YE SEPARATE. saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father