

means. The feelings and dispositions of the soul need to be changed. Love must take the place of hatred; fear must be supplanted by peace; and misery and despondency must yield to hope and joy. Without this moral change "no man can see the kingdom of God."

Question 3rd.—"Who is the author of this change?" "God," "was the reverential reply." Undoubtedly God is the author of this great moral change. "The new creature" is "born from above." He is "born of water, *even* of the Spirit." No mere creature could work this change. "Of his own will begat He us," "who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." But the Divine Operator works this change through certain instrumentalities. It is too often assumed that God is arbitrary in the regeneration of the soul, and when the agency of the sinner is introduced, the cry is raised that the Divine sovereignty is denied. But it was never intended that Divine influence should take the place of human duty, not that human duty should take the place of Divine influence. Let each have its proper place. The work is not wholly of God to the exclusion of man. Nor is it wholly of man to the exclusion of God. The truth lies between the two extremities; the human will must co-operate with the Divine. Peter says: "Being born again, not of corruptible, but of incorruptible seed, by the word of God that liveth and abideth for ever. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you." And James says, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures."

From these Scriptures it is plain that the truth is the *main* instrument in this great moral change. But that truth must be believed ere the change can be wrought. Paul, to the Galatians, says, "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." And the teaching of John harmonizes with this. He says: "As many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." God is the author of the change, but he does not work independently of the truth, but through means of it. And the reason why all men are not changed is to be found in their rejection of the truth. The Divine One is using means with the view to bring all men to the truth. He seeks through the foolishness of preaching to gain the attention of men to the Gospel. And, in His providential dealings, whether severe or the reverse, does the loving Worker seek to shut up sinners to