

It is a hopeful sign of our times to see the Holy Spirit thus exalted and glorified. The first great heresy into which the Church of God fell was to deny the glory due to the Father. Displacing Jehovah from His throne and exalting nature and men to a level with Him, "worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator," the Church sunk into miserable idolatry, "changing the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things." But of this great heresy the Jewish Church was delivered by frequent chastisement, and by the coming of our blessed Lord. The Jews have never been known since their captivity to worship idols, and it is now seldom a Christian Church falls hopelessly and fully into unmitigated idol-worship, although a dangerous approach to it is found in the Church of Rome.

The next great heresy was the denial of the glory due to the Son. Before the Apostle John left this world, this heresy began to work, for even then men were to be found in the Church who "denied the Lord who bought them." The Arian heresy, as it is called, which reduced our Divine Redeemer to the level of a creature, spread over the face of the Church to such an extent that it became a proverb that Athanasius alone of all Christian preachers dared oppose it, as we find in the phrase, "ATHANASIUS AGAINST THE WORLD"—(*Athanasius contra mundum.*) But by the goodness of God in raising up men like Athanasius, Augustine, Luther and Calvin (men who with regard to Christ's Divinity went through the experience of Peter—to whom can we go?) By the goodness of God in raising up these true defenders of the faith, who in their writings are with us till this day, it has so happened that the Arian Heresy is now well nigh extinct as an influential creed in Christendom. The Unitarian body, who make the denial of Christ's

Divinity the leading tenet of their system, are all over the world losing heart for their own system and losing hold of the people.

But what of the third great heresy, the denial to the Holy Spirit of the glory due unto Him. This is the great heresy of our day, showing itself in four forms: (1) By denying the inspiration of the Bible, men thus refusing to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through the holy men of old who wrote that book; or (2) By rejecting the solemn change wrought by the Spirit in men's hearts called conversion and regeneration, and classing it as among the mental imaginings of weak-minded people; or (3) By misunderstanding the Christian experience of the heart in which the Spirit dwells, and where there is going on a spiritual warfare, the Spirit against the flesh and the flesh against the Spirit, in many respects more impressive because of eternity than the wars of earthly ambition: or, (4) By quietly overlooking the necessity of the Spirit's work to give success to the preaching of the word, preachers thoughtlessly imagining that by logic, and rhetoric, by a clear method and a faultless style, which are good things in their place, they could storm the citadel of the human heart and bring down its lofty imaginations.

As in the Arctic regions, men sitting round their dingy rush lights in their dreary winter night discussing whether there be a sun or not, are awed into silence when his beams break forth on them, so the Church of this century, beginning to doubt whether there be a Holy Ghost, is startled by His coming; and quickened into life it knows not how. In every country and in every denomination, men are uniting in prayer for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In many places that baptism has come, filling the mind with sacred truth and opening lips that had been during life sealed as to divine things. Hard-headed and hard-hearted men acknowledge His