

able that our Lord ascribes our regeneration here only to the Holy Ghost and literal water.

Secondly: *It is according to analogy, or what we know of other parts of Scripture, to believe that water is here mentioned as a TYPE of something deeper, and therefore not to be taken in its literal signification.*

In explaining the words, "Except a man be born of water," many urge that the word "water" must be understood in its absolutely literal sense, and affirm that no other interpretation is reasonable. In reply, I may say, there is no word of more varied significance in the whole Bible, than this word "water." For example, in this same Gospel we have no less than three distinct occurrences of the word water, and in each place a totally different signification is evidently demanded. The passages I refer to are the following: Chap. iii. 5,—the text in question; Chap. iv. 13, 14; and Chap. vii. 37, 38, 39. Now let it be granted for argument's sake, that when our Lord spoke to Nicodemus He meant literal water, it follows that when He addressed the woman at the well He meant literal water also, and would have her