

shadow, or, when the similitude, as in the case of the brazen serpent, begins to take to itself a kind of sacredness, then it is time that such images should be brought down from their pedestals and stamped into pieces, and Nehushtan inscribed over their tombs.

Now let the mind be thoroughly cleansed of these traditional idols, and how simple will become the answer to our head question, for then it will be found that spirituality is simply another name for obedience to the Holy Spirit. The man is spiritual when he obeys the Spirit, just as a man is loyal who obeys the Queen as represented in the laws of the realm. It is the act of obedience to the Spirit that constitutes the believer spiritual, and that spirituality ceases the moment he ceases to obey Him.

Hence is seen how the word has its well defined place in Christianity, and when this is clearly kept in mind all the imagery which eastern writers naturally employed when writing concerning it but enhances its beauty without obscuring its transparent simplicity.

But the writers of the New Testament did not always deal in figurative language when discoursing concerning this thing; for example, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Walk, that is, as given in the next verse but one, be led of the Spirit and we cease to be carnal, *i.e.*, we become spiritual whilst so walking or being led. "The religiousness of the law is fulfilled in us who walk . . . after the Spirit," that is, as above shown, led of the Spirit. "They that are after (led of) the Spirit (do mind) the things of the Spirit, that is, they are not carnal, or, if any prefer the statement, carnality in them is destroyed; for it is added in the next verse "to be spiritually minded, *i.e.*, led of the Spirit, is life and peace." "But ye are not in the flesh," *i.e.*, carnal, "but in the Spirit," *i.e.*, led of the Spirit, as shown above; "if so be the Spirit of God dwell in you," that is, in this last sentence the indwelling of the Spirit is the same thing as being led of the Spirit.

Thus is plainly shown our contention that in the New Testament Scriptures, spirituality is in nowise surrounded

with the mysticism with which it is surrounded in much of the modern writings concerning this subject. Here it is so clearly defined that the believer need have no battle over modesty in deciding his character in this respect, for if now obedient to the Holy Spirit he is spiritual, and if not, not; and there is no such a thing as being spiritual or more spiritual only in the sense of being more or less obedient.

But it is clear enough to every one that when a man is not obedient he is disobedient, and so it ought to be as clear that when one is not obedient to the Spirit he is certainly carnal.

However, the question is in order here, "Cannot a man be spiritual when he is not consciously walking in the Spirit, but is consciously obeying the precepts of the Bible or of Christ?"

We give it as our opinion that when in this obedience he does not discriminate against the Spirit, that this act of obedience to Christ and the words of the Bible includes, or may include, obedience to the Spirit, who is one with both Father and Son and with the written Word. But the moment there is the slightest discrimination against the Holy Spirit then this act of obedience, however ostentatious or sincere in the performance, is disloyalty to the Holy Spirit, and must in the nature of the case constitute him unspiritual, that is, carnal.

As well call him loyal to the Queen of England who, although obeying the laws of the land, refuses to take the oath of allegiance or join heartily in singing the national anthem.

Paul did not hesitate to pronounce the Corinthian believers carnal, who proclaimed themselves to be "of Christ," and hence we hesitate not to say that however loyal one may be to the name of Christ, if there is in him any dislike to the distinctive work of the Spirit, his claim to be spiritual cannot be allowed, according to the plain teaching of New Testament Scriptures. But on the other hand, he who consciously is loyal to the Spirit, not simply as a creed, but carries out this his profession in real life, and obeys Him as the living law of life, he is not carnal but is spiritual from the very necessities of the case.