

the Father to give them another Comforter to abide with them forever, even the Spirit of truth, "whom," said He, "the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John xiv. 12-17). And further on in the same discourse He said, "I will not leave you desolate; (Rev. Ver.); I will come to you" (ver. 18); and again, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love Him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." In John xv. 26 He said, "When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me." And in John xvi. He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away; for, if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send Him unto you (ver. 7); and again, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now; howbeit, when He, the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth, for He shall not speak from (Rev. Ver.) Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me, for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (vers. 12-14).

It does seem extraordinary that, in the face of such explicit statements, made by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, there should be, throughout the Church generally, in all ages, from Pentecost down to the present time, so little practical recognition of the indwelling presence and power of the Comforter, who, as the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of truth, proceeding from the Father, now enters into a much more intimate relationship with the believer than the Lord Jesus Christ himself had with His disciples on earth, before He returned to the Father in heaven. Then it was only His occasional bodily presence with them. Now it is His abiding presence, in the believer, by the Holy Spirit as His representative, and possessing the same power as when He dwelt in the Lord himself during His public ministry here, after He was baptized of John in the Jordan.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of