

hard, so that we will learn that our place is to *obey*. I'm sick of trying to make myself good. I can't do it. I've got to be carried over the dangerous places, and I've got to hide when Satan comes after me; no use in my trying to fight with him; he always comes out ahead. Now, so long as the Lord said there was a place by Him, and promised to hide us, and promised to shield us, and promised to cover us with His hands, and promised to gather us under His wings, why should we be forever starting off alone, or at best only allowing Him to push a little while we go ahead and climb?"

"Good-evening," he added, rising, as Frank came in, "I've been waiting for you. Frank, you must take hold of the Young Men's Christian Association. We want you for president."

Rebecca rose and held out her hand. "Good-night, John," she said. "I have heard enough to give me food for thought for the rest of the evening. I am going to look into this tying."

"Do, said John, with emphasis. "You will find that if this life is a warfare we've got more than a Captain—we've a Commander-in-chief, and we have nothing to do with the fight other than to obey orders and keep behind the shield."—*Links in Rebecca's Life, by Pansy.*

WHICH SHOULD BELIEVERS SEEK, CLEANSING, OR THE FULNESS OF THE SPIRIT?

We point to the teaching of the New Testament, as brought out in the Acts of the Apostles, as clearly settling this matter.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter enunciated the order or procession of spiritual crises in the experience of men under the present dispensation, clearly and unmistakably, "Repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Paul also exemplified it in dealing with the Ephesian disciples. First he had them baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, then he laid his hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

But there has been a widespread departure from apostolic practice and teaching in these modern times. This

teaching makes cleansing a special blessing, apart from, and preceding the gift of, the Holy Ghost, advising all believers to seek first this as a distinct experience, and then look for the gift or baptism of the Holy Ghost.

As this teaching has been questioned, men have looked into the matter, and, as a consequence, there has been a general arousement to the importance of the subject, with an attempt to change methods, theories and names that wears a healthy sign of life. Indeed, it looks like an awakening of thought which must, sooner or later, secure a return to the old paths after they have been fully searched out.

But not so all, for some are pronouncing on this effort to return to apostolic methods as wrong, and are demanding that *their* teaching concerning the order of blessings should be retained at all hazards, as witness the following extracts from an influential exchange:

"It is not more power, nor the baptism of the Spirit, which is our first need as believers, but to be cleansed from inborn or original depravity."

It will be time enough after we are cleansed from all unrighteousness to look to be filled with the Spirit, yea, "filled with all the fulness of God," etc.

We rejoice that this is not the age when dogmatic teaching captivates men. Now, whoever would teach must speak as to wise men, who shall judge for themselves concerning what is said. And so men everywhere will apply the tests of Scripture to these dicta, and to all other writings of the same kind, whether agreeing therewith or differing therefrom.

But as aiding this investigation, we would ask anyone just to fancy the advocates of the above teaching to be in the presence of those twelve Ephesian disciples after they had received the Holy Ghost, and then to imagine them urging those twelve believers to seek the blessing of heart purity; for we maintain that to be consistent, they must teach that they had not received this blessing of freedom from inborn sin when they received the gift of the Holy Ghost. But will one of such teachers take this stand, or advocate such teaching?