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**CHRISTIAN LOVE**

*True Christian love is based on personal purity.* You may as reasonably expect to find a plentiful growth of wheat in the uncultivated wilderness, as true Christian love in a human soul that has not been the subject of the 'washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.' Love is a fruit, the existence of which presupposes the planting of the tree of righteousness in the soul. It was after the disciples were *all filled with the Holy Ghost* that "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." Peter bases his exhortation to the exercise of brotherly love among Christians upon the fact that they had already obtained pure hearts. He did not, as is sometimes done, endeavor to excite Christian affection among those that were still under the dominion of sin. "Seeing," he says, "ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth, through the Spirit, unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."—Brotherly love is not excited by the possession, on the part of its object, of wealth, or talent, or social position of agreeable manners, or the power to benefit us—it looks only for "righteousness and true holiness." Whoever does the will of God, however unlearned, or uncouth, or poor, or despised, he may be, is greeted as a "brother beloved." He is loved simply and only because he is righteous. The one attraction he possesses is holiness. But no one can love holiness without possessing it. For it is the nature of love to desire the object loved. If one really desires holiness he will obtain it, *for this is the will of God, even your sanctification.*

Are you then painfully conscious of a want of love? Come to Jesus to be made clean. Tell him,

"I will not rest till pure within.  
 Till I am wholly lost in thee."

The aster has not wasted spring and summer because it has not blossomed. It has been all the time preparing for what is to follow, and in autumn it is the glory of the field, and only the frost lays it low. So there are many people who must live forty or fifty years, and have the crude sap of their natural disposition changed and sweetened before the blossoming time can come; but their life has not been wasted.