

regarding the Spirit, and receives him into his heart, and yields to his holy suggestions, in conformity with the Word, has in his own heart the earnest of the Spirit, by whom he is sealed till the day of redemption, and is thus comforted, and sanctified, and demonstrated to be one of God's children. And thus the believer has not only the witness of the Spirit in his own soul, but he himself becomes a witness to others, not merely by the testimony of his mouth, but of his life, that the Spirit is indeed in the church, enlightening, sanctifying, and comforting the people of God, and making them meet to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the presence of one of the persons of the Godhead, in the Church, whose special office it is to watch over its interests, to extend its boundaries, and promote its spiritual prosperity, we have one of the most touching evidences of the condescension, and love of God, which may well draw forth our liveliest admiration, and most fervent gratitude and love; and one of the strongest guarantees which Omnipotence can give, that the gates of hell shall never be able to prevail against it. But let me not be mistaken here. By the church, I do not mean any particular denomination of evangelical Christians, but the invisible church, composed of all true believers, to whatever outward organization they may belong. This is the true church, the general assembly and church of the first-born who are written in heaven. In this church the Spirit is, and ever will be, till the kingdom of grace is merged into the kingdom of glory. And here he is employed in enlightening, counselling, comforting, and sanctifying the people of God, and fitting them to be instruments for carrying on Christ's work in the world, and enabling them to do greater works, than any which Jesus himself performed on earth. He raised dead *bodies*, it is true, to *natural* life whilst on earth; but his disciples, through the power of the Spirit dwelling in them, are enabled to raise dead *souls* to *spiritual* life. Jesus no doubt also quickened dead souls whilst he sojourned on earth, but his success in the conversion of souls was comparatively limited, because the Spirit was not sent forth till Jesus was glorified.