

the torrent. Listen : "the reign of sin," "sold under sin," "the dominion of sin," "the wages of sin." Read these chapters, go down with him into them, and up through them. Hear his lonely cries and prayers. "I am being held." "The good that I would, I do not, the evil that I would not, I do." "I am carnal." "I am being brought into captivity." "O wretched man that I am." Into many an awful abyss he has looked in the course of that seventh chapter, but out of them all he emerges at last, and we hear his cheery voice once more far up the heights, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Now he has reached the summit of the second peak. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit."

Here is a new word, a new element, a new personality—the Spirit. What made the climbing to this second height so difficult ? It was the thought, subtly suggested by Satan, that the justified one was thereby a good climber and needed no help. If justification be by faith, if you have peace with God, all is right. You are right, and always right, and forever right, your judicial standing is assured, no matter what you do. That is what Satan said. "You've believed, that is enough. Grace abounds, you may sin with impunity, for no matter how largely sin abounds, grace much more abounds." So on the traveller went alone, a great confidence in his faith overshadowing his faith. That was the stone of stumbling that tripped the apostle up, and threw him down between the fifth and eighth chapters. He was without a guide. He lost his way. He stumbled. He went over the precipice. He did not wish to fall. He couldn't help himself. It was the old story, the old-time failure repeated—self-help for a soul is no help. Yet there he is up in the crisp morning air of the second summit. How came he there ? Who came to his rescue this time ? Who is that beside him ? A guide, a companion ? Yes, mark well the ethereal outlines of His figure, and call to mind the question Paul put to the disciples at Antioch, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed ? Justified by faith, has the process of sanctification been begun by the Spirit ? He knew, doubtless, in his own experience, what it was to attempt a Christian life without the Spirit. He would save others from that perilous and impossible path. Hence the need of a second *therefore* in this presentation of the Gospel. An eighth chapter—stretching away beyond the fifth. The first verse of the eighth sounded like a repetition of the first verse of the fifth—"In Christ