



The Power OF THE GOSPEL

by Charles Fitch
A Discourse, Preached June 20th, 1841

Publisher's Note

The Second Advent movement that appeared in various places around the world in the early to mid-1800's was a fulfillment of the following prophecy:

Revelation 14

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the **hour of His judgment** is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

The **everlasting gospel** was the message, but given in the framework of the **hour of His judgment**. This involved the explanation of various Bible prophecies, showing that the hour of judgment was indeed about to commence.

These prophecies gave emphasis and urgency to the gospel message, but the heart of the Second Advent message was not prophecy, but the everlasting gospel, which was to prepare a people to meet their Lord.

Charles Fitch was a Presbyterian minister who joined in the proclamation of the judgment hour message in the 1840's. This sermon from him clearly demonstrates the type of gospel that was held to, and preached, by

Second Advent ministers. It was a gospel that offered victory over sin now, in this life, as a preparation to meet Christ at His return. This is why the results of that preaching led to drastic and immediate changes in the lives of people.

This gospel of the judgment was in direct opposition to what was commonly preached as the gospel, namely “that we will go on sinning until Christ changes our bodies at His return.” This false gospel is still being taught today.

Note: this sermon was originally a pamphlet written against Universalism, but I've taken out the Universalist references since the main argument of the sermon stands well and clear without reference to that historical background.

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*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation
to every one that believes;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

Romans 1:16

The object of this discourse is, to discharge a solemn duty, both to God and men: to God, that His name may be glorified, and to men, that their souls may be saved. In relation to my fellow men, I can truly say, that

1 Corinthians 10

³³ ...I seek not mine own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved.

And also, that

Romans 10

¹ ...my heart's desire and prayer to God for [every man] is, that they might be saved.

I remember the words of God to the prophet Ezekiel, contained in the third chapter of the writings of that prophet.

Ezekiel 3

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made you a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, You shall surely die; and you give him not warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his

iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand.

¹⁹ yet if you warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

²⁰ Again, When a righteous man turns from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because you have not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at your hand.

²¹ Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also you have delivered your soul.

In another chapter of the same prophet, we read as follows:

Ezekiel 33

¹ Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

² Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say unto them, When I bring the

sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

³ If when he see the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

⁴ Then whosoever hears the sound of the trumpet, and takes not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that takes warning shall deliver his soul.

⁶ But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

⁷ So you, O son of man, I have set you a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

⁸ When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die; if you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall

die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand.

⁹ Nevertheless, if you warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Now God has made me a watchman for the welfare of souls; to Him I stand accountable. No man can deliver me from my responsibility in relation to his soul. If I see danger, and can make my voice heard, and warn him not, God has said, "his blood will I require at your hand."

Now I see danger to souls in this community and it is the voice of God that calls me, and the authority of God that commands me to lift the note of warning. Many may refuse to hear, but I must obey God and deliver my own soul, by endeavoring faithfully and plainly, yet affectionately, to lift the note of warning.

The design of the gospel is to save men **from sin**. This grand truth has been kept out of sight; while the gospel has been held forth as rather a

way of salvation from hell, than from sin.

Now he who is saved from sin and preserved blameless, will unquestionably find an immortality of bliss, for our Lord Jesus Christ has said,

Matthew 5

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

We also find the following in the book of Psalms:

Psalms 24

³ Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place?

⁴ He that has clean hands and a pure heart.

Let a man therefore be saved from sin, and the blessedness of his soul is sure; and equally true is it, that he who is not saved from sin, can never inherit the kingdom of God,

Revelation 21

²⁷ And there shall in no wise enter therein anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination or makes a lie.

We also learn that the design of the gospel is to

save men from their sin, by the words of God to his ancient people Israel, respecting the object of that ceremonial worship, which was designed to point out Christ, and the end of his coming into the world:

Leviticus 16

³⁰ For on that day shall the priest make atonement for you to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

This idea of cleansing was ever kept in view in all that system of ceremonial worship—while the grand design of that system was to set forth Christ and the object of his coming into the world. Accordingly we are told by Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, that these rites and ceremonies

Hebrews 9

⁹ ...a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

¹⁰ Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

¹¹ But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh:

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

¹⁵ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament...

And we are told in the same epistle, what that New Testament is:

Hebrews 8

¹⁰ ...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts.

As if to say, you shall not be as were the Jews in the time of Christ, like whited sepulchers, beau-

tiful indeed without, but full of all uncleanness within.

Deuteronomy 30

⁶ The Lord your God will circumcise your heart, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.

It is therefore held forth in every part of the Bible as the design of the salvation of the Gospel, to set men free from sin, and when they are thus effectually saved, there cannot be a doubt that they will find their blessedness here and hereafter in communion with God, as surely as he is a God of purity and love. Accordingly the angel that foretold the birth of our Saviour said,

Matthew 1

²¹ you shall call his name Jesus, [i. e. a Saviour,] for he shall save his people from their sins.

Hence, also, we hear God saying,—

Romans 11

²⁶ There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

²⁷ For this is my covenant unto them, when I

shall take away their sins.

I greatly rejoice, that it is beginning to be recognized more and more, as the great design of the gospel, to make men pure and holy, and thereby

Colossians 1

¹² ...meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

The danger on this point is, that men shall think themselves cleansed by the gospel, while in the sight of God they are still altogether unclean. Or they shall regard themselves as so sure of being cleansed at last, that they shall pass on uncleaned, until they die in their iniquities, and consequently find, that “where Christ has gone they never can come.”

The apostle Paul tells us in what the power of the gospel consists, when he says,

1 Thessalonians 1

⁵ For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but in power and in the Holy Ghost.

Peter speaks of

1 Peter 1

¹² ...the things which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel, with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven.

Paul also says to Titus:

Titus 3

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, [ie. from sin,] by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost

⁶ Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The power of the gospel to save from sin, consists in the regenerating, renewing, and sanctifying influences of the Spirit of God, shed forth to attend the gospel through Jesus Christ our Saviour, and without these influences, the Gospel with all the love which it reveals, is utterly powerless, in working in the hearts of men, that

Hebrews 12

¹⁴ ...holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Accordingly our Lord Jesus Christ at his ascen-

sion, after having commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father.

Acts 1

⁸ ...you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Having therefore received from Christ the assurance and direction,

Luke 24

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; tarry you in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high,

Acts 1

¹² Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

¹³ And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room...

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.

Until the Holy Ghost came upon them:

Acts 2

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Then they preached the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, and multitudes were pricked in their hearts and inquired what shall we do? And when others mocking said “these men are full of new wine” they replied,

Acts 2

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus,

whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 3

²⁴ Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Here then we behold the power of the gospel to save men from sin—it is in being attended by the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven. I freely admit that it is the setting forth of the love of God which saves men from sin, but in order that the love of God may have its cleansing efficacy—it must be as Paul says to the Romans,

Romans 5

⁵ ...the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by

the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Accordingly we find, that the success of the Apostles in saving men from sin by the preaching of the gospel, is uniformly ascribed to the power of the Holy Ghost. Barnabas was a man full of the Holy Ghost and faith, and much people were added to the Lord. Peter preached at the house of Cornelius, and the Holy Ghost fell on all which heard the word.

Acts 11

¹⁶ Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

The whole current of the New Testament shows that the work which should follow the coming of Christ, should be the dispensation of the Holy Ghost.

Peter tells us of how the prophets looked for this salvation:

1 Peter 1

¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied

of the grace that should come unto you:

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

This glory was to be the outpouring of the Spirit as predicted by Joel; and which Ezekiel also had in view, when God is heard saying by the mouth of that prophet,

Ezekiel 36

²⁵ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

²⁹ I will also save you from all your uncleannesses.

Here also is brought to view by the prophets that baptism of the Holy Ghost which was to be the establishment of the kingdom of Heaven upon earth:

Romans 14

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way of the Lord for the establishment of this kingdom. This work of preparation was performed by him, as he preached saying,

Matthew 3

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

¹² Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The same great truths Christ himself had in view, when he said to Nicodemus,

John 3

⁵ Verily verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit—he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

What is the kingdom of God?

Romans 14

¹⁷ ...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

What is it to be born of water? It is to receive John's baptism unto repentance. That is, truly to repent and being forth fruits meet for repentance. This prepares the way of the kingdom of heaven in us.

What is it to be born of the Spirit? It is to receive the baptism of Christ with the Holy Ghost, or to have Christ "sprinkle clean water upon us, and make us clean; and cleanse us from all our filthiness, and from all our idols." (Ezekiel 36:25).

Then when this baptism of Christ is received, when this work of purification is wrought by being baptized with the Holy Ghost, we enter that "kingdom of God" which "is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

And we have the positive assertion of the Son of God,

John 3

⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you expect a man be

born of water [ie. led to the exercise of true repentance,] and of the Spirit [ie. sprinkled with clean water, or baptized with the Holy Ghost, and cleansed from all his filthiness and from all his idols,] he cannot enter into the kingdom of God,

which “is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Here then we clearly see, my hearers, what it is which makes the gospel of Christ the power of God unto salvation from sin. It is our Lord Jesus Christ, baptizing with the Holy Ghost, and thus cleansing men from all their filthiness and from all their idols; thus bringing them into God's kingdom of righteousness, and establishing that kingdom in their hearts—filling them with righteousness, as Christ says those shall be, who hunger and thirst after it; and giving them peace and joy in the Holy Ghost—making their peace as a river and their righteousness as the waves of the sea.

This gospel is indeed “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes.” It is the dis-

pensation of God's Almighty Spirit,

Romans 6

⁴ Burying us with Jesus Christ, by baptism of the Holy Ghost into death [ie. making us dead to sin,] that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life.

It is enabling us to

Ephesians 4

²² ...put off the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

²⁴ And to put on the new man, which after God [ie. after the likeness of God] is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Many are correct in assuming that the design of the gospel is to save men from sin, but they fail entirely of gaining that salvation, by leaving out of the account the work of the Holy Ghost in renewing and cleansing the heart. The Psalmist said:

Psalm 51

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,

wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Here it is recognized as the work of God to save from sin, to cleanse the heart.

Paul speaks of

Ephesians 3

⁷ ...the gift of the grace of God given unto him by the effectual working of God's power.

It is in this way that every gift of God's grace is communicated: only by the effectual working of God's power.

The Bible represents unholy men as dead in trespasses and sins, and as having no spiritual life but in Christ. When our first parents ate the forbidden fruit they died a spiritual death, and all their posterity are under the power of that death, and will remain under it forever, unless raised by the power of God. Hence we hear Christ say

John 11

²⁵ I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me though he were dead yet shall he live,

²⁶ And he that lives and believes in me shall

never die.

John 14

⁶ I am the way and the truth and the life.

John 6

⁵³ Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

He therefore who would have spiritual life is to look to Christ for it. He is to seek, through faith in Christ, that baptism of the Holy Ghost which will cleanse him from sin; or in other words, raise him up from his spiritual death, and make him alive to the love and enjoyment of God.

That same God who first breathed into man the breath of spiritual life, so that he became a living soul—must again by the power of that same Spirit breathe spiritual life anew, or the sinner will remain dead in sin forever.

All his contemplations of the love of God, without this baptism of the Holy Ghost, this resurrection from spiritual death by the power of Christ, will avail nothing. Men will by such contemplations, become no better than whited sep-

ulchers. By these contemplations, the outside is made beautiful, but the uncleanness still remains within.

John 8

²⁴ If you believe not that I am he, [said Christ] you shall die in your sins.

²¹ ...and whither I go you cannot come.

If you believe not that I am who? Why the Saviour whom God promised to send into the world; and whose

Matthew 1

²¹ ...name was called Jesus, because he should save his people from their sins.

The question then, for you to settle, my hearers, is this. Have you been baptized by the Holy Ghost? Have you been raised up by the power of Christ's spiritual resurrection from the death of sin and made alive unto God? Do you have that kingdom of God established within you? That kingdom is

Romans 14

¹⁷ ...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the

Holy Ghost.

If not then you are dead in sin, and your expectation of going where Christ is, in your present state, will avail you nothing. To the Jews, Christ said, you will not come unto me that you may have life.

Simply understanding and asserting doctrines will not cleanse men from sin, and give them spiritual life. They must come to Christ for it by faith, and receive it by the power of the Holy Ghost, for

1 Corinthians 4

²⁰ ...the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

Many are expecting to be finally saved from sin at Christ's return, when their bodies are changed. But they are not looking to Christ by faith, hungering and thirsting after righteousness and expecting to be filled—nor do they know what it is to obtain the witness which Abel did, that they are righteous (Hebrews 11:4), nor the testimony that Enoch had, that he pleased God (Hebrews 11:5).

1 John 5

⁶ It is the Spirit which bears witness because the Spirit is truth.

And when we obtain the witness of the Spirit that we are righteous, by having Christ baptize us with the Holy Ghost, then we know in our own blessed experience, what it is which makes the gospel

Romans 1

¹⁶ ...the power of God unto salvation [from sin] to every one that believes.

We are prepared with Paul to say,

¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

Christ becomes the Deliverer from **our sins**. Those who die **in their sins** have not truly believed in Him:

John 8

²⁴ If you believe not that I am he, you shall die in your sins.

This dying in sin will be found fearful indeed. It will be the portion of all such as will not

2 Thessalonians 2

¹⁰ ...receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved [from sin].

There is reason to fear, that very many who regard themselves as in a state of salvation, have mistaken the grand design of the gospel. They seem to suppose, that the great design of the gospel is, to save men from hell, at the close of their existence on earth, and that by looking to Christ to save them from the final doom of the wicked, when they die, they are then to live in a great measure in sin, inasmuch as their salvation is secured.

Many, who say that they groan being burdened, under a sense of their vast uncleannesses, have no hope of being cleansed from sin, until death comes to their deliverance, supposing that, somehow or other, about the close of life, they shall be so cleansed, as to be meet for heaven.

Many suppose that, a little before death, or in the very instant of death or immediately after death, something or other will transpire, that will

complete in their souls the necessary work of purification, and make them fit for heaven.

It is strange that such vast multitudes should have imbibed such a notion as this, and should be resting such amazing interests and expectations upon it, when the Bible nowhere intimates that any such change is to take place in any soul at or about the time of departure from the world.

On the contrary, the Bible does teach most plainly, that Christ is the only Saviour from sin, and that he came to save us while we live, and to preserve us blameless until we die.

With this truth in view, we hear Zacharias,

Luke 1

⁶⁷ ...filled with the Holy Ghost, [prophesying and saying,]

⁶⁸ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

⁶⁹ And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

⁷⁰ As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all that hate us;

⁷² To perform the mercy promised to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant;

⁷³ The oath which he swore to our father Abra-
ham,

⁷⁴ That he would grant unto us, that we being
delivered out of the hand of our enemies might
serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before him, all
the days of our life.

Here is Christ our horn of salvation, even Jesus saving his people from their sins—but instead of saving them at death, it is “all the days of their life.” Saving them too, “out of the hand of all the enemies” of their souls, unto “holiness and righteousness” “all the days of their life.”

With the same blessed truth in view, we hear Paul saying to the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 1

⁴ I thank my God always on your behalf, for the
grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

⁵ That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in

all utterance, and in all knowledge;

⁶ Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

⁷ So that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁸ Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Faithful” “to preserve blameless” to the end. This same faithfulness of God in preserving his people blameless after enriching them with the blessedness of full salvation from sin, Paul recognized again in writing to the Thessalonians:

1 Thessalonians 5

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Faithful is he that calls you, who also will do it.

He says also again, to the same church,

2 Thessalonians 3

³ But the Lord is faithful who shall establish you and keep you from evil.

Thus plainly does the Bible present to us the doctrine of salvation from sin through Christ—in this life, and during all this life, while it never speaks of death as the time of salvation. Its language is,

2 Corinthians 6

² ...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

And the Bible nowhere regards any thing as salvation but salvation **from sin**.

You must then, my hearers, have salvation **from sin** while you live, or die in your sins, and where Christ has gone, never go. Any hope but this is baseless, for Christ declares that at his coming, he will give every man according as his work shall be, and that the unjust shall be unjust still, and the filthy, filthy still, while the righteous and the holy shall so remain. (Revelation 22:12).

O that every heart who hears me, might be

brought by the Holy Ghost, to cry out, how shall this salvation from sin be obtained?

In reply to such an inquiry I answer: the blessed Bible tells us that

2 Peter 1

³ ...his divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

About these promises, we are told,

2 Corinthians 1

²⁰ For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

So if we seek by earnest prayer and faith in Christ, to have these promises fulfilled in us, their fulfilment is sure. These promises are such as the following:

Luke 11

⁹ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰ For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

I have already shown that the design of this gift or baptism of the Holy Spirit, which we receive through faith in Christ, is to save from sin.
To

Ezekiel 36

²⁵ sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols.

This is the baptism of Christ, which cleanses from sin, or makes us dead to sin, and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. If you would have this “gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38), this “baptism with fire” (Matthew 3:11), this salvation from sin, seek it, with earnest prayer, and faith in Christ, and you shall find in your own blessed experience, that

Matthew 21

²² ...all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 5

⁶ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

And they shall be filled, as we are assured in the covenant and oath of God, “all the days of their life” (Luke 1:75).

Come I beseech you, by faith, to Christ, for this salvation, and you shall find, that

Romans 1

¹⁶ ...the gospel of Christ [is indeed] the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believes.

All this hearer you must receive, or Christ will say to you at last,

Luke 13

²⁷ ...I know you not whence you are, depart from me you that work iniquity. [see also Matthew 7:23]

O, it is a dreadful opiate to the consciences of men, to teach them, that though they sin against God every day, in thought word and deed, they may yet be saved from sin, when they die, and be received to heaven! It lulls into carnal security; it operates as a standing excuse for all the iniquities which men may chance to commit.

While on the contrary, our Saviour's doctrine, that if we believe not in Him as our Saviour from sin, we shall die in our sins, and where he has gone never go, tends most directly and powerfully to arouse from the fatal slumbers of worldliness and sinful pleasure, to cry mightily to God in Christ's name, for deliverance from all our spiritual foes—and for strength and grace

Luke 1

⁷⁴ ...to serve God without fear,

⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

God grant that this may be the earnest cry of every soul, and be continued by every one of you until you find your feet in that “highway of holiness over which the unclean shall not pass” (Isaiah 35:8).

He that thinks that he shall certainly be saved from sin at last, will be almost sure to be saying,

Proverbs 24

³³ Yet a little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the hands to sleep.

May the Lord save us out of this destructive snare of the devil, and bring us all to behold by faith,

John 1

²⁹ ...the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

Then shall we

Hebrews 11

⁴ ...obtain the witness that we are righteous, God testifying of his gifts.

These gifts are put within us by His Spirit and

Psalm 119

⁶ Then shall we not be ashamed, when we have respect unto all His commandments.

It is a matter of unspeakable consequence, that we do not trifle with, nor resist the Holy Ghost. It is trifling with the Holy Ghost, when we think lightly of the pollutions which God charges upon us, and will not seek to be cleansed by the Spirit of God. We are resisting the Holy Ghost when we will not yield to the motives of the gospel, and come to Christ for the Holy Spirit that we may have a victorious life.

If any of you my hearers desire the salvation of God—let me say to you as did David said to Solomon his son:

1 Chronicles 28

⁹ And you, Solomon my son, know you the God of your father, and serve Him with a perfect

heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts: if you seek Him, He will be found of you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

The influences of God's Spirit are the waters of salvation **from** sin. They can be had by being sought through faith in Christ:

Isaiah 55

¹ Ho every one that thirsts, come you to the waters.

John 7

³⁷ If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink.

Revelation 22

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that hears say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Amen.

