

Clearness is Better Than a Thousand Arguments

CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE OR ENTIRE HOLINESS
DEFINED.

WE assume the practicability of "entire holiness, sanctification, perfection, purity, freedom from sin," properly so called that these terms imply a state, distinct alike from regeneration and justification embracing each, and superior to both. Now what do we exactly mean by these terms? What is our idea of the state, or work, or experience they describe?

In all utterance and communication of truth, nothing is so desirable as the exact apprehension of the idea intended to be conveyed by the words employed. Indeed, most of the discussions on moral subjects are for the want of this, mere logomacy - a strife about words. One disputant attaches one idea or set of ideas to words and phrases, another attaches entirely different meanings, and the debate waxes fierce. The ideas of the disputants, it may be, do not disagree, but they suppose they do because they have not waited to agree about the meaning of the words employed. Time lost in statement is time gained in the after stages of investigation. Clearness here is better than a thousand arguments.

(Christian Purity; Or, The Heritage of the Faith by R. S. Foster, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1872, 17)