Converts

" And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" Acts 2:47.

The persons who were reached at Pentecost were added to the church by the Lord. Does anybody else ever add to the church? Oh, yes, the devil too often thrusts in his servants. Who was it that added Judas, and Ananias and Sapphire, and Simon Magus, and Demas to the church? Who was it that stole forth by night and sowed tares among the wheat? That evil spirit is not dead, he is still busy enough in this department, and continually adds to the church each as are not saved. His are the mixed multitude which infest the camp of Israel, and are the first to fall a lusting; his the Achans who bring a curse upon the tribes: his are those of whom Jude says, “certain men crept in unawares who were before of old ordained to this condemnation.” These adulterate the church, and by so doing, they

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weaken and defile it, and bring it much grief and dishonor. When the Lord adds to the church, that is quite another matter. Moreover, the church itself cannot avoid adding some who should not be received. With the greatest possible care and prudence we shall still make mistakes, and some are thus added whom the Lord never added to the church. You have heard Mr. Hill's story of meeting a man in the street one night, who hiccuped up to him and said, "How do you do, Mr. Hill? I am one of your converts." "Yes," said Rowland, "I should say you are, but you are none of God's, or else you would not be drunk." Converts of that sort are far too numerous, converts of the Preacher, converts of friends, or converts of a certain fashion of making profession, but not true-born children of the Lord.

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