

we should not give the slightest credence to the sayings of men, when they contradict the truths of God's Word. Men may believe something very like the gospel, and yet remain unchanged in heart; but they cannot believe God's gospel, and continue without peace and safety.

4. If you maintain that you know "the truth," and yet are not made free from the condemning power of sin by it—that you believe the gospel, and yet are not saved by it, you are mistaken in supposing that it is "the truth"—"the truth as it is in Jesus,"—that you know and believe. You may believe in the divinity and humanity of Jesus, in his miracles, in his death for sin, his resurrection and ascension into heaven, and yet not believe the soul-saving gospel in its relation to, and in its bearing on, your own state and character. The fact that you are unsaved is evidence that whatever else you believe, you are not believing *the gospel*. It may be that your attention has been so occupied with the outer form of the saving truth, in the mere word-symbol that makes it known, that you have never looked to its inner essence—its real import. When you apprehend the word of the truth of the gospel in its real meaning, you understand it as revealing the mind and heart of God, as a God of love to you a sinner, as having so loved you that he gave Jesus to die for all your sins, and then you rejoice in God as your Father. You see God revealed in the Gospel as loving you, notwithstanding, and in spite of, all your sins, and Jesus, the unspeakable gift as the expression of his love, and you cry, Abba, Father, when you truly understand it. Alas! it is to be feared that multitudes mistake a familiarity with expressions and phrases for a knowledge and belief of the gospel. This may be your mistake, when you say that you believe the gospel, and yet are unsaved. And if you persist in maintaining that you are a believer, though unsaved, you are resisting the Spirit. The Spirit has come and is convincing men of sin, because they believe not in Jesus. But if you maintain that you are a believer in Jesus how can the Spirit lodge the conviction that you are a sinner within you? If you are yet unsaved, you ought to admit that you are an unbeliever, that you do not understand the gospel. So long as you regard yourself as a believer, you are fighting against God. O let not an unwillingness to admit your ignorance come between you and salvation. Receive the Kingdom of God as a little child. One of the first lessons which the student requires to learn is that he is ignorant. So one of the first lessons you need to learn in order to come to the knowledge of the truth is that you do not know it. Then are you teachable, ready to admit the truth into your mind, and submit your heart to its holy power. Behold your God in Christ—