

The soul's need of truth is paramount and perpetual; and reason is too limited in sphere and in power to furnish forth sufficient supplies. Hence the necessity for faith. We can not know; we must believe. The Scriptures, recognizing this fact, with Divine dignity state boldly the truth, in its entirety and in its extremes, without pausing to explain or to defend. For want of properly observing this fact, many men have felt constrained to endeavour to pare down the miraculous, to explain away the supernatural, and to compress the infinite, in Scripture, and in Nature. But Faith can soar where Reason stumbles; it can utilize what Reason cannot analyze; it can include what Reason cannot reach; and can harmonize, in our own experience, what Reason cannot reconcile in theory. Let not Reason, therefore, presumptuously attempt to prop up, with its unhallowed hands, the sacred ark of Truth. Let it rather abide in its proper sphere, ministering with eye and ear, to Faith, the appointed priestess of Truth; discerning what the testimony of God really is; not rashly presuming to judge what it should be.

In view of all, therefore, it is surely the part of the Christian, who lives and walks by faith, to receive unshrinkingly, believe steadfastly, cherish lovingly, and maintain fearlessly, all that Divine Authority may utter, however exalted above reason, "holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience."

"We have but faith : we cannot know ;
For knowledge is of things we see ;
And yet we trust it comes from Thee,
A beam in darkness ; let it grow."

Beautiful thoughts cannot pass over the mind without acting as fine files that wear away the coarser furrows.

Pictures around your room are like loop-holes of escape for the soul, leading to other scenes and days.