

use the present wisely. It is evidence of an individual trust and confidence in the creative power to deposit seed in the mother earth to wait for the assimilation of the seed with the soil by the ever existing power. That man might be accused of infidelity, and yet he believes in a producing and reproducing power, and in his heart names that power God, a living belief in him, or he would have no confidence in putting seed in the earth. On that trust he watches and waits, feeling an individual responsibility for the growth and development. Should he neglect his duty in regard to caring for the seed, his belief in the result is weakened. But by this failure he may be stimulated to renewed and increased energy, and the growth accelerated.

Let us find the comparison between this outward, temporal human life, and the inner life, the soul life, the real life. I fear we, as individuals, do not possess and manifest that careful, patient waiting for the soul life. We become uneasy, anxious; we feel that the environments are not the most congenial and advantageous for the growth of the soul life. We become impatient; look at our little endowment of gifts, and question in our hearts whether the good seed was deposited there. The careful husbandman makes inquiry and reflection to find the cause for the results. Have we any right to question whether the seed was good? Has not the great husbandman carefully planted the seed. Was there ever any questions about the seed being good? But it fell on different soil, some by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured it, some on stony places, and because it had no depth of earth it withered away; some fell among thorns, and was smothered out, and others fell on good soil and brought forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold. The Great Sower made no mistake in sowing the seed, but he left so much in the hands of his chil-

dren who, perhaps, do not assume all the responsibilities of caring for it. Our own heartfelt, earnest desires are very largely answered as a result of the toil of our own hands. We must use our own knowledge, our own skill, and seek for higher information. The answering of our prayers depend very largely on our individual efforts. Sometimes because we cannot discover a rapid growth in religious life, because we do not possess great talents we become discouraged; compare our lives with others, and forget that the rightful use of the one talent brings its own sweet rich reward, no less sweet or rich than the one with the five or the ten talents. We think, reflect, and try to study our own little selves, and consider our lives a failure, but the reward of "well done" came to the one with the one talent; therefore let us look back and up to that life most beautifully illustrated in the sacred writings, let us look to Christ in our hearts. Remember that Paul exhorted his fellowmen to prove themselves, "Know ye not that the spirit of Christ dwelleth in you, except ye be reprobate?" That glorious relation existing between our human hearts and the great one: "Behold the kingdom of heaven is within you" Then let us apply our hearts with all diligence to-day, according to the light that we have, in the rightful use of the privileges allotted to us, realizing each night that we are one day's march nearer heaven. And let us, if there has been any inclination to question, to doubt, because there is a comparison between our lives and others, let us see that these mistakes may be overcome so that our living may become a more practical one. And though growth may seem slow, we can feel ourselves a little stronger to resist evil, a little stronger to withstand temptation, a little greater desire to do good. Human will is the only thing able to resist the influence for good. God's will is always willing and advantageous