

leaving the ninety and nine who are already safe in His fold that He may go and find the single wandered soul. And here is shown the weakness of allegory to set forth divine Truth in its every aspect. For the omnipresent God never leaves or abandons His ninety and nine faithful ones; but as the lost soul is in greater need of His compassion and mercy, so is the Saviour's compassion exhibited as wholly exercised in the recovery of that soul.

He doesn't forsake His faithful followers; He doesn't withdraw from them the arm of His protection. Infinite Love will not depart from any soul.

But with unspeakable tenderness and compassion His heart is bent upon the recovery of the soul that is gone astray, and His ear seems to be open to the cry of that soul alone.

He bends Himself over the lost sheep as though it were the only wanderer from the fold, concentrating the fulness of His saving power upon that single soul.

So that not only did He come down once for all to recover mankind from the tyranny of sin, but when these sins of ours are now being committed He is still to us the Good Shepherd, not leaving us to wander further and further away from Him, but calling us and warning us over and over again.

It was His voice that taught us prayers and catechisms in our youth. His voice it is when conscience seems to prick us and fill us with a sense of secret resistance to the commission of some wrong-doing.

Was it not His voice when He took away some dear friend—it may have been a wife, a husband, a