

you have sinned. You are mistaken. He pities you because you have sinned. And he wants to help you to sin no more. Or perhaps you think it is hard to find him. You are mistaken. Turn toward him and you will find him a Father who goes out to meet you, not with punishment, not with reproaches, but with the gladness of love. Or you have thought that you must offer a sacrifice to appease his wrath or satisfy his law. You are mistaken. His is the sacrifice. It is the mother who suffers for her sinful child; the patriot who suffers for his careless country; the martyr who suffers for his age; God who suffers for his children. This is the Gospel. Not that God will let you off from punishment if you are sorry and promise not to do so any more, but that God will pour his life into you, here and now, and make you partaker of his nature, if you will let him do so.

Do you remember Tennyson's prayer?

"O for a man arise in me,  
That the man that I am may cease to be!"

The Gospel is God's answer to that prayer.