

The Upward Look

Wisdom and its Attributes

Give instruction to a wise man and he will be yet wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.—Proverbs 9:9, 10. (R.V.)

Our minds are one of the greatest gifts God has bestowed upon us. It is they which distinguish us from the brute creation. The higher forms of animal life have the reasoning faculty developed to a very limited extent, but they lack all the higher attributes that distinguish the human mind.

Our minds are an evidence of our Divine nature. By their means we are enabled to realize our dependence upon an Infinite Being, and thus to worship Him. And as God has given us the power to develop our minds so He has enabled us to grow and expand in our knowledge of Him and of the mysteries of the universe, and thus to prepare and purify ourselves for the life hereafter.

This in part answers the question that has been asked by a reader of "The Upward Look," who has made request for a discussion of the subject, "Why and how to improve the mind," taken from Proverbs 9. The

imperative reason why we must improve the mind is because only by so doing will we be enabled to live up to the highest and best that is within us.

The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14) was intended by our Lord to apply to everything which we possess, including not only our money, but our time and our opportunities, and our natural abilities as well. More important than any of these, however, is it that we shall improve our minds, for only as we increase in wisdom through the cultivation of our minds will we know how best to use for God's glory and the benefit of our fellowmen the other talents which God has bestowed upon us, humble though they may be. If our lives are to increase in richness and in power the improvement of our minds, for just as it is necessary that the soil shall be enriched before it will be possible for it to yield bountiful crops so it is imperative that our minds shall be improved before our lives can yield good fruit.

How then shall we improve our minds? Our text tells us, "The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom." Just as the pupil is unable to learn as long as he thinks that he knows more than his teacher, so we are unable to acquire true wisdom until we realize our own weakness and need and also God's infinite wisdom and power and His love towards us. When once we comprehend this great basic truth we will be ready and

glad to humble ourselves in the sight of God and God will then delight to lift us up. (James 4, 10.) This then is the first step that we must take if we are to improve our minds and our lives in the highest and best sense.

In Proverbs 9, the eighth verse, we are warned to "Reprove not a scoffer lest he hate thee." This is because a scoffer is not humble. He does not realize his need. He is trusting in his own strength and wisdom. A wise man, on the contrary, knows how limited is his knowledge. This makes him humble. He, therefore, is always seeking for further instruction, and he is willing to learn from all, even from those less learned than himself. This is why if we give instruction to a wise man he will be yet wiser and why if we teach a righteous man he will increase in learning.

If we would improve our minds, therefore, let us be humble and let us believe and put to the test the promise, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." (James 1, 5.)—I.H.N.

A Hold-all Case

Make a shoe case and tack it to your closet door. This case should be made of some firm, strong material such as denim or ticking, and might as well cover the door from top to bottom and leave only an uncovered

margin of about six inches on each side. You will wonder how you ever got along without it, and for the girls' room it is an inestimable boon.

Make pockets to hold four pairs of shoes, a pair of rubbers, umbrella, parasol, whisk broom, bottle of blacking, extra shoestrings, and even a tape measure. Each of these things has its own strap to hold it in place firmly, and putting each thing away becomes a matter of habit, and when you want any of these things you know just where to find them.

Where's Mother?

Bursting in from school or play, This is what the children say, Trooping, crowding, big or small, On the threshold, in the hall— Joining in the constant cry, Ever as the days go by:

"Where's mother?"

From the weary led of pain This same question comes again; From the boy with sparkling eyes, Bearing home his earliest prize; From the bronzed and boarded son, Perils past and honors won:

"Where's mother?"

Burdened with a lonely task, One day we may vainly ask For the comfort of her face, For the rest of her embrace; Let us love her while we may, Well for us that we can say: "Where's mother?"



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