

true! "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God."

But, not only does our physical and intellectual life consist in God; our moral nature also, receives a new impulse in this truth. Any system of conduct or morality that has not God for its beginning, middle and end, is lamentably at fault. Every other moral standard, all inventions of the perverted mind of man, must give way, in order to make room for this one absolute and supreme standard--the nature of God. Our relations are considered in the true light only when we recognize them as sacred--sacred because they were established by a Holy God, and since the holy law of God is set as a guardian on them. A comparative study of the human races living under various codes of morals, will make this very apparent. That code alone which recognized God as its centre has elevated man to an elevation in the moral scale which could never have been realized under any other code.

In our modern civilization we must regard this as its redeeming character, its foundation. In spite of the influence of the powers of darkness, of the evil and degraded nature of man, of the terrible extent to which pollution and crime have prevailed; in spite of all this we have attained to a stage in the moral development never before realized in the history of the World. To what shall we attribute all this, if not to the fact that the nature of God is our universally acknowledged moral code? To what shall we attribute the good we so frequently find among men, professedly non-Christian, unless to the spirit of God. Truly we must bow in reverence before Him who liveth for ever and ever. He is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. He has not yet forsaken the earth. He is still working in and through men who even refuse to be influenced, permanently at least, with His higher love, and makes them shew forth His praise and glory by binding firmly on their shoulders the immutable bonds of personal responsibility.

The progress of civilization, then, the advancement of morals clearly show the truth of the text: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

In fine, man's spiritual life not only can have no real strength, but can have no real existence at all save in Him who has life in Himself. Man, as he is by nature, is dead to the Kingdom of grace. The moral man cannot grow into the spiritual man. He may approach the very threshold of the Kingdom. He may attain to that high degree of morality that he may even persuade himself, as well as others, that he really does belong to the Kingdom, that he really does possess the spiritual life. As I said already, he may feed on those outward means of grace, continue to perform good moral works, enjoy all the privileges of the visible Church, but so far there is no real *spiritual* life. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word