

Can He that formed the ear, that gave the power of sound, of vibration, and of a sound wave answering back to this vibration, can He not hear? If man is endowed with power to see and hear, does not God understand all these things, and does He not make His impress on man? And so the spiritual power that God gives us comes to us from the fact, that God is a spirit, and God, being a spirit, can touch our spirits. If we are so formed that we can understand the love of man, may we not understand the love of God? If God so made us that we can appreciate that which is outside of and around us, may we not, if God so wills it, appreciate His presence?

Now the manifestation of God is something which is to be known to the individual only. "How is it," said one of the disciples, "that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us and not unto the world?" If it were an external manifestation, all could see it and hear it; but whenever Christ manifests Himself, it is so that the person understands it, though the one nearest him may not; it is a spiritual manifestation. There is nothing external, but He that formed the heart of man can make an impression on that heart of man. And so when the soul longs for God, when there is this thirst for God, when the very heart is burdened and the whole frame seems agonized for God, there comes into the human heart a sweet, satisfying calm. As the thirsty man is relieved of thirst when the precious water is given, so the soul of man, that thirsts after God, is satisfied. When that peace comes, when that love of the heart springs up, the soul may know that God is there, and there comes a holy peace and love and joy, which we recognize as God's own presence, unknown to others, but known to us. Was there a burden? It is gone. Was there a hope? There is now a fulfillment. Was there an anxiety? There is now a calm. And the soul, without any external manifestation, cries out, "Abba, Father! my Lord and my God!" It is a communion that nothing else can give, that no one else can understand;

but as there is in the heart of man that which answers to the heart of man, so there is in the heart of man that which responds to the love of God, and God touching that human heart by His Holy Spirit gives a consciousness and an assurance of the adoption of sons, and we are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Thus he comes to the human soul, it may be on a bed of sickness, it may be on the cross where the thief is executed, it may be in a dungeon, or it may be in the closet or in the church; external circumstances are nothing. God is everywhere; under all circumstances He can speak to the human soul, and there comes to the heart a sweet calm that seems to say, "Peace; be still." The waves have been rolling; the ship has been tossing; the dangers have been imminent; but there comes the voice that says to the consciousness, "It is I; be not afraid;" and leaning on Him we can walk on the waters and fear not the billows.

Now God is with us in this testimony within, but that is to be tried by something outward also. If man obeys every impulse, gives rein to every fancy, he may imagine, as some enthusiasts do, that God gives him specific directions with regard to his duty, and specific revelations with regard to what shall be. Now we are taught to *try* every spirit, whether it is of God, and we have a sure Word given us; and if they speak not according to that Word there is no truth in them. We are not to claim as the voice of God anything that is not assured to us in this blessed Word. But when God tells us our sin is forgiven, and grants us a sense of the adoption of sons, we turn to this blessed volume and find that this is just the charter of our religious inheritance. We are the sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ. What God assures us we are to accept; beyond it, nothing more. Would that God would manifest Himself to every heart here to-day as He doth not to the world, and may you, each and every one, feel that God is your Father and that you are His children in Jesus Christ, and may you have the spirit,