

will come again and receive you unto myself." And so there came the promise of the Father. And it seems to me as though the Shekinah that dwelt in the temple, that had been under the wings of the cherubim, moved over that assembly of those disciples of Christ as they met, as I suppose, not very far from that holy place, and a spirit came as with the sound of a rushing wind, and as the Shekinah, the cloud of fire, it came over and then rested on the heads of the disciples and the company, and then it disappeared; I suppose, went from the heads down into the hearts, there to abide. God comes to dwell with men forever, and His dwelling place is your heart and mine.

But the question arises, How can we know that God dwells with men? I answer, we may have knowledge of various grades and in various ways. We may know, as a matter of reason, the divine presence: as for instance, the design that is in the world, what we can perceive in wisdom and knowledge. We can know God by the material things which He has revealed, and we learn of His wisdom and Godhead through what we can see of the works of His hands. That is a matter of reason. Just as when I see a house I know there must have been a builder; when I examine the vast parts of this earth and what I know of these heavens, I know there must have been a maker. And as I see evidences about and around me, as I look into a drop of water and find it is full of animate being, when I look into a leaf of the tiniest moss that just covers a rock and find it has branches, and in those branches there is an order of animate beings, I find that life is everywhere, and God, as the Author of life, is everywhere, and He is conducting all things. The very succession of life, coming every moment, and changing, brings to me the thought of the abiding presence of a divine power and worker all around me. If there were no changes, I might doubt; but the changes are perpetual. And yet law is eternal, and in the midst of the multifarious changes there is the mark of a designing mind, one who

cares for all; and I know and I reason there is a God around me and about me.

Then again, I know Him from what I find in His Word of the fulfillment of prophecy. When I find that thousands of years ago certain things were foretold, and I find them coming to pass around me, then I have the assurance that He who foretold and holds all things in His hand, is bringing to pass His own Word; and as I live to-day and look at the changes among the nations, the vast events through which we have passed in our own history as a people; when I look at other nations, especially in the East, and see the changes occurring, and all opening up the fulfillment of God's Word, I feel, I know, that God is in the world, ruling and reigning, and that He is coming whose right it is to reign.

But after all this there is more. If I look in the material world about me and find wisdom and design; if I look in the rise and fall of kings and find that a governor must evidently be present carrying out His own great plans, still it seems not to me as if that hand touched me; and the question comes: "Can God be with me?" And this brings us to notice the spiritual presence of God. The time was when God manifested Himself by the external, in the answer of fire, as when Elijah gathered the priests of Baal together, and in the dust they in vain called for their god, the sun, to consume the sacrifice, and after waiting until the evening hour of sacrifice, Elijah called and fire answered. There was a visible presence, just as in the temple there was a visible presence. But after Christ Himself came, that visible presence ceased as He left the earth. It was then a Comforter to come to the hearts of men, to be with and to dwell in them. To reason on the subject for a moment: Is it possible for God to make Himself known to men? May I know, inwardly, the presence of God? He seems to answer, as if to our thought: "He that formed the eye, can he not see?" Did He not make all the laws of light, so that images might come? He that gave us the power to see, can He not see?