

of our greatest strength. We may come into the state which Jesus portrayed of all being one "even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us." A complete restoration is experienced in this oneness with Christ.

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### CHRISTMAS.

"God has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

We keep Christmas day as the birthday of Christ. The Gospel tells us the story of his birth; but, in some respects, that story is not easy to understand. One thing, however, is clear: that he was from the first a gentle, yet resolute and fearless seeker after God. Even in his boyhood he sought the company of venerable and learned men in the temple, and was eager, as he said, to be about his heavenly Father's business. He was the son of Mary, and of Joseph, a carpenter, and in one place we come across the bright record, that after his visit to the temple he "went with his parents, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them"; an obedient and loving child, preparing himself for that supreme obedience and that perfect love which afterwards led him to say that his meat and his drink were to do the will of Him that sent him; and to finish the work he had given him to do.

It is here that we find the explanation of many difficulties concerning Jesus; difficulties that would never have existed at all if people had been careful to remember what he himself always said: that God was his heavenly Father, who sent him and who was ever with him; and that God is our Heavenly Father too, who sends every one who is willing to serve him, and who will ever be with us. It is a lovely truth—that the "Glory of God" does shine "in the face of Jesus Christ"—and that the shining light in our

hearts enable us to see it. But all things shine with the glory of God; and everything has a "face" which may tell us something of the Father.

Not only Jesus at Christmas tells of God, but the shining star, and the glistening snow, and the radiant holly berries, and baby's pretty eyes, and the old man's silvery hair, and the mother's pleasant face, the heavenly glory is always there; and the light in the heart may always be there too to enable us to see it.

Ah, yes! Paul was right. The light must be in us before we can see that it is around us. God must shine in our hearts before we can have knowledge of His shining in surrounding faces. It is always so. We could not even delight in the colors of leaves and flowers, and in the splendor and mystery of the clouds, and in the song of birds, and in the music of voices and instruments, if we had not something in our own souls akin to these.

So, then we must *find* this inner light, and cherish it, and make much of it, and think of it as a guardian angel whose wise hands and shining eyes will help us to find our way, and to see all pure and beautiful things. And this angel of light it is which, at Christmas, will help us to see Jesus. No book could do that for us; and the wisest teacher that ever lived could only help us. We must have the heavenly radiance in ourselves.

Paul tells us that the light is God himself. It is he who is shining in our hearts to enable us to see his glory elsewhere. It is the heavenly Father who is speaking to his earthly child from everything he has made; for, in everything, he has put something of himself, so that his light, his power, his wisdom and his love, shines out everywhere for all who have eyes to see. But he is especially in those who think of him and love him. To these he gives wise, bright eyes, and an understanding mind, and pure desires; so that more and more the light beams forth from them to show them God in