

and hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth." We might sing and clasp to the heart brother and sister trusting in Jesus of every age and name, and hear in that rush of love the sounds of heavenly praise like the voice of many waters saying "Allelulia for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb! Hosannah to the son of David. Hosannah in the highest."

We cannot indeed emerge from the childhood stage by thinking about it and what is to succeed it in the hereafter; but we can understand and admit the fact, and with the impression this should make upon us, we may study to be humble, hopeful, and charitable, and to know the righteous Father, and Jesus whom he sent. We can learn to be thankful that we have a Father in God though he hideth himself from our gaze; that he that saw Christ hath seen the Father and may know Him, tho' this be wondrous, past finding out; that Christ hath vanquished sin, though so strange is the presence and power of sin in God's world and over God's creatures; and that a manhood without it awaits all Christ's disciples in Heaven where they shall be at home.

We can sit at the common table here, we can wait on and hear the same Lord grateful for the sensible signs given to His children; can enjoy communion of spirit with the Lord, can hope in the Father loving, and in the shepherd leading, and feeding, and guarding his flock; can rise in contemplation of the house of God eternal in the Heavens, where with all the members of the happy family, with enlarged and enlightened capacities, we may survey forever throughout the unbounded universe the mighty works of our Father and our brethren's Father, and bask together in the sheen of His love, and these thoughts will be making sin to us more utterly hateful, and holiness the perfection of beauty, and Christ who did all for us precious beyond our telling.

We can look out into the unmeasured depths as the character of Christ opens to us, and invest that character with the amplitude of eternity, and, wingless though we be, in spirit we can soar up after Him to heights of glory.

II. And now, as says the Apostle, my little children this is our Father's commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another.

Believe in His Son. It is a Father who regards us as only a father can; a Father who has a son, in a special high sense, an only begotten one—a son beloved—a holy child. And that Father so loved the world that he gave this son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. While we were sinners Christ died for us, and God wants to give you the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ unto Himself, to make you heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

Believe Him.

Believe in His Son—His Father's express image—His Father's power, and love, and willingness to save. He came to show us the true Father—the fountain of all Fatherhood, as ours yearning for our salvation, to ransom our souls from death, and lead us to the Father reconciled.

Believe in His name—i. e., what He declared Himself to be, the life, and light, and Saviour of the world; what He showed himself to be in the blameless, active, benevolent, human life, our pattern; what He did in teaching, warning, promising, dying and rising, to redeem us and our brethren from all iniquity, to send the Gospel to all nations, and to save all seeking salvation in Him,—all but the unbelieving and rejecting who have no cloak for their sins—who hate both the Father and Him.

"There is life for a look at the crucified one,
There is life at this moment for thee,
Then look, sinner, look unto Him and be saved,
Unto Him who was nailed to the tree."

Believe. There is life in believing; life transforming into the life of Christ in the Spirit's moulding hand, and life perfect finally in glory.

And then swelled and inspired by all this love for you, look with a Christ-like eye and heart on one another and on all fellow men. Remember what children we are—how little, how inexperienced. Remember we have one God and Father, one Saviour and Lord, and be like him. Obey him in this.