

In the command to "Go wash yourselves" we discover a work to be done by man; the Lord does not do it all. In the outward He furnishes the soil, the air and the light, but man must plow and sow, and if he fails to do this he fails to reap the harvest of enjoyment. He made the first man a living soul, and asked him to assist in the naming and ordering of the things in the natural world. He has given us a divine spark, and asks us to assist in ordering the various things in our natural part. Give Me thy heart, He says; let My spirit in love control thy life, thy will, let it have dominion over all the animal powers and propensities in thy nature.

Man is only an instrument in the hands of God. He can do no more; angels can do no more. We may place our hands in His, figuratively speaking, and let Him lead us gently along, and His virtues will be reflected in our individual lives.

If our hearts have become darkened, our spiritual eyes are blinded, and our ears so dull that we cannot hear, there are means provided for restoration. God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that He so loved the world that none should perish, but that all should have everlasting life. He brings into existence a human life with all the frailties, propensities and passions, and surrounded with all the difficulties and temptations that we are, sin only excepted, and why? Because He lived up fully to the requirements of His spiritual nature instead of indulging His animal desires; He is said to have been perfected through suffering. I dare not say He was able to do all the miracles when He was twelve years old that He did afterwards. But He developed as the Lord moved on before and pointed the way. What a holiness there is in this pattern, showing the possibility and gloriousness in humanity!

Jesus was enabled to heal all that came with that true faith, and even some that sent only a request by mes-

sengers. It will be so to-day; He will perform works as miraculous now as then. If our spiritual eyes are blind and our ears stopped that we can no longer hear the voice of God, He is able to open them—I do not mean physically but spiritually. We may have had an issue of blood for twelve years by our own transgressions, and if, when we feel there is a healing power, a Christ power, just in advance of us, and have faith to press through the human doubts that come up to bar the way, if we may but touch with faith the hem of His garment, we will be made whole. She made her faith saving because it was practical, and she carried it out. No half way will do with God. I ask us to sell all we have in our hearts.

Jesus is here no longer in manhood, but in spirit. The Christ never was and never can be crucified; it was before Jesus the man, and still remains. "I will not leave you comfortless;" the Father "will send you the spirit of truth, that will abide with you for ever and shall teach you all things." It will lead and guide into all truth, and consequently out of all error.

The same tidings of joy will come to us as in days of old: Unto you a child is born, a son is given—not 1800 years ago, but this day, meaning the time when the light of truth dawns upon the soul. "And the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." You and I are shepherds to-day watching over the flocks of our hearts against their foes, and the greatest of these are those of our own household.

If there comes a thought, an idea, a something that is new to us, let us not spurn it without a hearing; let us leave our flocks for a time, and come and see if the value immortal be not born. Let us retire into the closet of our own hearts, and close the door against