

*ought* to keep his heart pure and his life right. He will carry in his heart a perpetual monitor and guide. Whereas, to a mind thoroughly dispossessed of the idea of God, conscience will be but a name or a delusion, and duty but another word for usage or utility. Not only the religious, but the moral, life will finally depend on reverence for that Being who loves righteousness and looks with abhorrence on iniquity.

Secondly, it should be in childhood, because it is the time for it. Everything has its season. There are sentiments and affections which, left unawakened in childhood, will probably never be roused to any controlling activity, and this is one of them. If a child have no respectful feelings for superiors, or affection for parents, it is in vain to hope that they will come with age. If the conscience of childhood is never awakened by being appealed to, you look in vain for any great moral sensibility in manhood. Just so with the religious sentiment. If childhood passes away without its being awakened; if all the early associations — which, once fixed, are as difficult to be moved as the foundations of a house — the associations with *man*, and duty, and nature, and human life — are once formed, leaving God out; if this appropriate season be neglected, the man may afterwards have all the philosophy of religion in his head, but he will have but little of the religious spirit in his heart. And besides, if there be this neglect, the mind is not left vacant, but, in the place of those which ought to exist, spring up other sentiments, passions, interests, which absorb the nutriment of the soul, — a thick overgrowth, beneath whose shade the religious sentiment struggles up vainly towards the air and light. For this reason it is, that the wisest and best men have been