

ture. or in that element of the Divine image which sin has not obliterated.

God is a spirit, and when He made man in His image, He made him a spirit. It is from CONSCIOUSNESS we get the idea of spirit as something distinct from matter. Through the senses, we come to the knowledge of matter, as found in the body and in the external world. It is recognized as that which has certain properties, such as extension, weight, color and divisibility. By consciousness I become acquainted with something which I call myself, or my soul, which thinks, feels, wills, makes moral discriminations, and is one and indivisible. None of the known properties of matter can be ascribed to the soul or self, as made known by consciousness. And none of the known properties of the soul can be predicated of matter. We thus reach a knowledge of soul or spirit as essentially distinct from matter. When everything which discovers to us the existence of soul and of matter, reveals them as distinct, it would surely be gratuitous folly to attempt to identify them with each other. But while we can predicate none of the properties of the self or soul of matter, we are constrained both by reason and revelation to ascribe to God, in infinite measure, all the distinguishing properties of the soul, and to deny to him all the properties of matter. To Him we ascribe personality, feeling, intelligence, will, moral character, and indivisible unity—the very characteristics of the human soul revealed by consciousness. And when we affirm that human soul is spirit, and that God is a spirit, we only employ a verbal symbol to express what we had before discovered is common to man and to his Creator. If we had not discovered through consciousness what spirit is, the assertion, that God is a spirit, would mean as little to us as a description of colors to a man born blind, or of sound to a man who has been always deaf. Language cannot convey simple ideas which are not already in the mind. A belief, therefore, in the spirituality of the human soul, and in the spirituality of God, logically stand or fall together.