

John takes up a positive active life, in the activity of which he supposes the Christian lives, and which has joys and delights of its own, "If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons (children) of God!"

I get the nature of which we are made partakers shown from the life which is lived. If He is righteous, we know that every one who doeth righteousness (has the manifested character of that nature) is born of Him. Where has it come from? From God. I recognize this relationship of a child by the nature that is manifested. The Apostle is not merely thinking of what we are in the title of righteousness, but of whom we are born—whence we draw our life. Hence it is that he says in verse 9, "cannot sin," for it is the nature of God *in which we live as born again*. He takes the truth up, as he does on every subject, in its own absoluteness, without modifying it by the contradictory principle in us. But the result of the possession of this life is brought in in remarkable terms. We are born of God, but the life which we have received is that eternal life which was manifested in Christ. (Chap. i. 1-3.) Hence he says, "It doth not appear what we shall be," no one has seen the glory, "but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." We shall be like Him; it is from the blessed consciousness of