

believe He is walking in the garden, speaking to us, appealing to the very condition in us, and if there is any cause for dissatisfaction, and we are not always satisfied with our own lives and religious experience, study the human heart and its Creator.

That Creator has never ceased to live, never changed in its work or result. If we endorse the spirit and power of God to be unchangeable, unerring, that it operates to-day as of old, when it is allowed to operate; if we endorse that God is almighty, unchangeable, that there is a power, that human will is great enough to reject that power to-day, then let us not say as others have said,—“We will not have this Man to rule over us.”

God is dealing with men still, and man fails to understand that this God we believe in is a spirit, and that there must be a spiritual operation in our own hearts. The voice must be heard speaking there.

There is no mystery about creation. It was not finished in six days, and will never be finished as long as Creator and man remain. We see God all around us. We say there is a power that causes animal and vegetable life. It is in the tree to perpetuate the growth, to perfect, adorn and beautify. And, although unhappy, if we would but accept the gift of God and thus make our lives better than we found them when we first became acquainted with them, as a tree by care produces better fruit.

God is talking to man now just as plainly as He ever did, and only wants man to listen to Him. If human will will give, then Heaven here will grow. Peace and happiness come naturally in physical, intellectual and spiritual life simply by complying with the laws God has provided. If we hear footsteps in the garden, and our lives are disarranged, and He comes and says “Let there be light,” there will be light; it will illuminate our lives, our understandings.

He told man first to dress the

garden and keep it, and it was not until there was an undue restlessness of human curiosity that that sense of shame came. ’Twas not, I think, an evil and wicked design, but rather than to be controlled by that love it chose to be ruled by the man who possessed it.

God gave man dominion over all but creation, and I believe it was the design of the Creator to find man doing as He asked him to do, and it was not until there was a violation of that law that man felt ashamed when he heard the footsteps of his Lord. But God was not changed, He came and said,—“Where art thou?”

Let our professed belief of an unchangeable God be a practical one. He is walking in the Garden now just as He did then; He will not call—“Adam,” but He will call us by name; He knows our name, knows our condition.

I know as well as any the result of disobedience, perhaps in no great evil, but I have felt that sense of shame, the sorrowful regret that there was an opposing to do some little thing I might have done and did not do; this brings that shame, and that voice says—“Did I not tell thee, did I not put the law in thy heart and in thy mouth?”

I call your attention to this, that God is reasonable in all His requirements. “Did I not tell thee if thou doest well thou wouldst be accepted?” I would call your attention to God’s plan and system of salvation we can rely upon. “If thou doest well”; thy salvation depends upon doing well. Doing well simply means obeying thy God.

We want to disrobe religion of all the mystery thrown around it by formal creeds. If we do what God dictates to us we will be accepted. Salvation is to save man in a happy mind in this world, not simply prepare to die, but to live as God wishes us.

Salvation is to live well—“If thou doest well thou shalt be accepted.” He appeals to us in reasoning, and so we find in this wonderful reasoning