

the keenest intellect will fail to perceive the meaning and beauty of the truths of the Bible. The doctrines of Christ are hidden from the wise and prudent in their pride of intellect; but they are revealed unto babes, who have a receptive, docile spirit. As artistic truth is perceived by the artist's eye, so spiritual truth is perceived by the spiritual eye. Spiritual discernment is capable of growth in strength and clearness. The apostles themselves afford a striking illustration of the fact. How often Christ had to complain of their want of insight into the truths of His kingdom, of their slowness of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken. Like the blind man whom Christ healed, they saw things at first indistinctly and out of proportion. But in answer to their prayer, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, their spiritual vision was clarified. Christ and His truth became so vivid and real to them, that they could speak and write of Him and of it with surpassing freshness and force. What took place in their experience may take place in ours. We who deal with divine truth and human souls need a clear-sighted grasp of the meaning of the one and the value of the other. Faith is an organ of knowledge as well as reason. It opens the door of the kingdom of heaven, and enables us to gaze upon its mighty wonders. It lifts us above the mists and clouds of the seen and temporal, and gives us a clear view of the unseen and eternal. It enabled the apostle John to look beyond the lowly surroundings of Jesus of Nazareth, and to behold His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. "I believe, that I may understand," said an ancient theologian. A mind in sympathy with the truth, and willing to learn of the great Teacher, is in the best position to make progress. The challenge came to the prophet Amos, "What seest thou?" as the communications of the divine will passed before him. Faith enabled him to interpret the emblems as they appeared, and apprehend their message. The "plumb-line," and the "basket of summer-fruit," became luminous with moral and spiritual

teaching to the inner eye of the prophet. What seest thou, O Sabbath School teacher, in the lesson which thou art to teach on the coming Sabbath? Is it a dull and dreary waste of facts and doctrines, or is it aglow with spiritual beauty and vibrant with spiritual life? Michael Angelo could see an angel in the rough block of marble. Can you penetrate the common-place surroundings of your scholars, and see in them the possibility of radiant sainthood? Before you can tell others of the loveliness of Christ, you must see it for yourself. To cheer you amid the worries and discouragements of your work, you need the vision of the enthroned Saviour. You must cry to Him: "Lord, open mine eyes, that I may behold the glories of thy person, and the wonders of thy salvation!"

Faith gives *spiritual power*. It links us with Him who has all power in heaven and on earth. Our own souls must have a hold of God, if we would move and influence other souls. We must feel deeply the reality of the spiritual world, if we would interest others in it. He who has experienced the grace and love of Jesus in his own heart, will testify winningly of them. The men and women of faith have ever been the men and women of power in the kingdom of God. If we honor God by believing in His Word, as the divinely-appointed instrument of human salvation, and by using it in our teaching with unshaken confidence, He will honor us by making us the means of winning souls to Himself. Faith does not create, but it conducts, power. Without the conducting wire, or other subtler medium, the power generated in the electric battery will not go out to move the car, or light the lamp, or carry the message. God is the fountain of power, but that power flows out through human lips, hearts and lives. The apostles were to be witnesses to Christ. They were to tell the story of His spotless life and of His death for sinful men. How were they to accomplish this great work? They did not possess high intellectual gifts, or scholastic training, or social or political influence. Jesus told them the great secret of success. "Ye shall