

which Jesus came to mankind ; and I have been wondering if Adam frankly acknowledged his error, if he would have been driven out of the garden. But he did not, and according to theology he incurred the displeasure of his Maker, and involved the whole race in sin, unless a substitute be found to suffer in man's stead. But according to the Bible God afforded a means by which Adam might return. "He placed at the east of the garden a flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life." By passing under this sword Adam might have regained life. He was now dead spiritually. In the *east* side. Light dawns in the east in the physical world, so the east may represent the time of the first dawning of light in the soul—the first beaming of the intimations of God's will. Then was Adam's time to return and pass under the flaming sword. This "flaming sword" represents the refining process that cuts off, separates all dross from our nature. I know, my friends, what it is to pass under this flaming sword, to have my nature purified of all reprobate matter by crosses and self-denials. This process is again beautifully represented by the work of the refiner, who, with his fire drives out all the dross till he sees his own image perfectly reflected. It has then the true ring, and is of value and usefulness in the world. If we would only be honest to acknowledge the presence of dross, and be willing to pass through the fiery ordeal and be purified until God could see His own image in the soul, then might we be of value and of use in this world more than we now suspect. In the image of God means having his goodness, having his love, his purity, etc. Hatred, jealousy, intemperance, profanity, are not of God, they are of man. They consist in a wrong use, a perversity of some good quality that was meant for man's benefit. This propensity perverted becomes a demon, an evil spirit, a devil in us that must be cast out. I

do not know why I so speak to-night. I brought it not here with me, and I must not take it away. I have come to have faith in whatsoever God impresses upon the soul. I honor it as the Spirit of Truth which will guide into all truth. It will shine brighter than anything we ever saw before, making things plainer to us. It was what Saul saw on the road to Damascus that shone brighter than the noon-day sun. The Christ was there—Jesus was not, the outward man. "And a voice said: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me," and Saul, the haughty, was brought down into the dust "Who art thou Lord, and what wouldst thou have me to do?" And those that stood by saw the light, but heard no voice. Saul could not undergo the operation without others discerning the change. Neither can we do a good or a wrong without effecting those around us. Our influence is felt and we cannot help it. Let it always be felt on the side of right.

Is there a soul here to-night that does not realize these truths? Is there a man here so lost that he has forgotten the solemn vow he once took to love and protect, and for the sake of gratifying some carnal appetite, now abandons to misery or wretchedness? The teaching of Christ should be made practical. Are we honest in the profession we make. Let us not pretend and come far short of our pretension.

Do we really love our fellowmen as ourselves?

Are we laying down our lives for our friends?

What does it mean? It may not be to die physically, but rather to sacrifice our selfish desires to the enjoyment and happiness of those around us. "As ye did it unto the least of these, so ye have done it unto Me."

I will use another circumstance and a saying of Jesus to express my feelings. The overflowing love of my heart goes out to this people. I felt when I was here last that I had many things to tell you, but you were not ready for them.