

find them again? Shall we know them? "Where are now the blessed ones who formerly mingled with us on earth? Amongst the ministering hosts of heaven are to be found the men and women who have returned to their native land associated with Moses and Elijah as messengers of God. Associated are they with the spiritual inhabitants of the upper world who never possessed garments of flesh which mortals wear. Our departed loved ones have not changed their real and true form, they have only thrown aside the body as an encumbrance which they needed not in the spiritual world. As one with those who are not higher than they, but of the same order we may conclude that they are to be found among the ministering spirits, who minister unto them who are heirs of salvation.

Blessed ministry, the ministry of our dead kindred. It was this feeling which prompted many of the weak and sinful amongst men to feel that the kindred being near to God, and having a sympathetic knowledge of their sins and sorrows, they could pray unto them to assist them so long as they were subject to the frailties of life. Prayers to the dead is not such a heinous crime when studied in the relation of the ministry of the dead, but that it is needless is true, when man can draw near to God without the intervention of frail mortality, or even disembodied spirits.

The dead have only changed their relation to us. They are not dead to God. "They are equal unto the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." God is the God of all things, animate and inanimate, perishable and imperishable, but "he is not the God of the dead