

never placed anything wrong in our natures I am not a believer in inherited sin. Mark the difference. As sin originated in Adam, so it originates in all. "Original sin" is an appropriate term, but is misunderstood and misapplied in the religious world. I dare not reflect censure upon our Heavenly Father for a condition of sin for which we are not responsible.

I believe in a natural religion. It is only unnatural for man to be bad. God is the author of all nature, but not of all human desires. I did not say that it was perfectly human for man to be good, but natural. If men and women lived up to the laws of their own nature they would be the children of God not only by nature but also by adoption, and He would look into the soul and see His own image (for man was created in the image of God)—His own image, which is purity, goodness and innocence.

We never saw God, and yet we have heard about Him—have only heard about Him too much. We must come to know Him in our own hearts. If we know Him here we know Him everywhere, and our wills will co-operate with His will. I know mankind says we cannot live in harmony with God's will. Would any human father or mother be so unkind as to require obedience to a law that could not be fulfilled? Is our Heavenly Parent less reasonable than our earthly parents? Does he require obedience where he has not given the ability to obey? We are all children of one common Father. It is our individual duty to subscribe to the rules and regulations of His household and fulfil all its requirements. If we would do this it would be keeping the garden of the Lord clean. He would point out our duty plainly, but would leave us, as He did Adam, to our own choice; He uses no masterly authority. If anything went wrong we might hear the footsteps of the Lord in the cool of the day as plainly as Adam did, coming, not to censure or condemn, but to

reason with us. God is not impartial. Man feels the approval of God's spirit for right action, and the disapproval for wrong to-day if he ever did, and our fig-leaf excuses are all ineffectual.

I fancy sometimes if Adam had walked out and openly confessed his error, he would have received pardon. I know, at least, when I transgress a known law of God's (I say a known law, for a sin of ignorance is winked at), I bring upon myself a sense of anguish, and when I frankly acknowledge it I can realize the smile of God, I can feel a forgiveness and reconciliation. I am fully persuaded that all the sin my Heavenly Father ever holds me accountable for originates in my own heart, and I am responsible for the influence I shed abroad. If my heart is pure there radiates from it purity. If it is filled with the love of God, love will overflow and bless all around me.

Man makes himself a sinner, but the very day, aye, moment, he is willing to yield implicit obedience to the will and power of God, that very moment he is freed from the burden of his sin; all anguish and remorse will be taken away.

The plan of redemption and salvation, as the world says it, but to me of salvation and restoration, was given to man long before Jesus came into the world. "Before Abraham was I am," said Christ. We find this power manifested before Jesus was. All the glorious testimonies and miraculous works done by Jesus were not done by Him as a man. Take His own words: "I of myself can do nothing;" "The words that I speak are not mine; it is the Father that speaketh in me." It brings mankind to-day up into entire acceptance in the sight of God if obedient to His laws. How much we depend upon what others do instead of putting our own shoulder to the wheel, and our own hands to the plow. There must be efforts of our own to co-operate with the power of God. Our excuses will not satisfy Him. No fig-leaf covering will hide our imperfections.