

BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye [turn from your evil beliefs of life in matter to the recognition of that kingdom], and believe the gospel.” If this kingdom, as Jesus said, “is at hand,” where is it and how does one find that kingdom?

This kingdom can be found only by using the spiritual senses. This Kingdom of God is plainly visible to these spiritual senses, but never, oh, never, can be discerned by eating of the “tree of knowledge of good and evil,” or the use of the material senses. That which appears to us through what are called the material or physical sense, is not a sense world, but is a non-sense world.

There were two men walking through a wood. One, an artist, the other a hodcarrier. Suddenly the artist, stopping, said to the other, “Oh, look at those marvelous colorings! The blues, the greens, the yellows, the browns, the purples, the reds, are they not wonderful?” The hodcarrier, looking toward the place indicated, stared for a moment and then said, “I do not know what you are talking about. I see nothing over there but the sun shining through the trees on an old dead stump and some leaves.”

Why did not this man see what the artist saw? The colorings were certainly there plainly enough to be seen, but unlike the artist, the hodcarrier had not cultivated his artistic sense.

Once there was a man who made a lot of money in California. He retired from business and started to travel around the world. His first stop was at Niagara Falls. His wife was with him. She was a spiritually-minded little woman; he was just a good-natured business man. There they stood at the foot of the Falls gazing up at the magnificent spectacle. After a moment the little woman lifted up her hands in sheer ecstasy and exclaimed, “Oh, John! Is not that the most wonderful thing in the world? Does it not remind you of God and ‘His wonderful works to the children of men’? Does it not remind you of His infinitude and power? Does it not, John?”

Her husband looked puzzled for a moment, and then said, “It reminds me that I forgot to turn the tap off in the kitchen before we left California.”

Evidently this man had failed to cultivate those higher senses which enabled his wife to behold something other than the merely material aspect of the Falls.

Jesus beheld the things of the Kingdom of God more than anyone else in the past, so he was able to say to us, “the kingdom of God is at hand;” behold the things of that kingdom: believe the gospel; believe what I say; believe my message from our Father. In that kingdom which “is at hand,” are to be found food, drink, clothing, houses; life, abundance, plenty, affluence, health, peace, joy, harmony, the substance of Spirit itself; all that one would expect to find in the realm of a Father who is Love itself. We can all say who have found that kingdom which “is not of this world,” as the little spiritually-minded woman from California said, “Is it not wonderful?”

He who has not yet found those ears that “hear what the Spirit saith,” can only reply, “We do not know what you are talking about,” even as the hodcarrier said. We see

only matter with its attendant iniquity, sin, sickness, death, want and woe. Why do we not see that kingdom at hand which Jesus so plainly saw and lived in? It is because we have not cultivated the spiritual senses as he did, and which are ours as surely as they were his. The greatest metaphysician of this day and age, the Revelator of those same higher senses, has said, “. . . the power of healing was not a supernatural gift to those learners [Jesus' students], but the result of their cultivated spiritual understanding of the divine Science, which their Master demonstrated by healing the sick and sinning.” (*Science and Health*)

Jesus constantly cultivated his spiritual senses by refusing to recognize anything but the spiritual senses, and so was able to behold the true being where others saw only matter and its pleasures and pains. Where others believed they saw evil, Jesus recognized only good; where others saw sickness, lack, and death, he refused to see anything but that divine consciousness and refused to live anywhere but in that divine consciousness, thus he recognized only health, abundance, affluence, and Life.

This, then is what we are to do if we wish to obey his commands, “to repent,” and “to believe the gospel.” We are to cultivate the spiritual senses and go about it just as we would cultivate any material sense, such as the musical senses, the artistic senses. How? We must become more and more spiritually minded by utilizing the things of that Kingdom of God which he said “is at hand.” As we continue diligently to use these spiritual senses, through meekness and humility, and the establishment of the laws of God in our hearts, we perceive, as Jesus did, that Kingdom of God which “is at hand” today, now, and we “believe the gospel.” We “believe the gospel” because it has taken on a new meaning, a spiritual sense, through which the entire Word of God is discerned as that which *is*, and not that which is to come.

The angel of the Lord appeared to John and said: “Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.”

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand,” said Christ Jesus.