
THE SANCTUARY

Jesus was constantly referring to the Father within. He said: "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works". What did he intend to convey?

Jesus was as a character in a book, in the "Book of Life," the Author of which is God, Spirit, Mind, Principle. So it was the Author speaking in every instance. Like as in the tale of Robinson Crusoe. It was always the author speaking as being Crusoe or Friday. When the dog barked, the parrot squawked, the wind blew, the waves beat upon the shore, the stars twinkled, or whatever happened in the world of Crusoe, it was always the author. Similarly God, Mind, the Author is the only Doer. Whatever goes on in this world that is good, and there is nought else, it is God, the Author speaking and acting as being characters or things; it is Mind expressing itself; but the power never inheres in the created thing, any more than does the power of Crusoe to act or talk inhere in Crusoe. The power inheres in God and in nothing else.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.' So spake Jesus. The closet typifies the sanctuary of Spirit, the door of which shuts out sinful sense, but lets in Truth, Life, and Love. Closed to error, it is open to Truth, and *vice versa* . . . To enter into the heart of prayer (the very heart, mind you) the door of the erring senses must be closed. Lips must be mute and materialism silent, that man may have audience with Spirit, the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error." (S & H 14 and 15).

Two words therein require the closest attention. They are "Sanctuary" and "Audience".

What is a sanctuary? Generally one would answer, "A place of

safety;" and so it is, but this reply shows forth a mere superficial knowledge of the meaning.

In Florida there is a sanctuary for birds. Everything detrimental to bird life is barred from that great acreage devoted to that purpose. Guards are thrown all about the place to insure against the entrance of whatever might be harmful to the birds. At the same time whatever is conducive to bird life is there. So it is a sanctuary.

Into this sanctuary come the birds. They do not have to be driven in, for they come of their own accord. Anyone then who may enter this sanctuary will become a recipient of whatever the birds have to give forth, their songs, arias and trills, their beauty, color and form, and the love which is manifested as they bill and coo in the trees.

There is another sanctuary in New York City, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A sanctuary of art and treasure. Everything which tends toward the preservation of art and treasure is maintained there, while whatever is harmful is barred out. Guards are here also, hovering about everywhere, watching to prevent the entrance of vandals, thieves, or mischievous persons, or whatever might in any way cause injury to the contents. Thus is constituted a sanctuary for art and treasure, and into it flow the great treasures of the world. The owners thereof do not have to be importuned to bring them in, but rather do they seek out this haven of safety for a permanent abode. To whomsoever walks therein is given forth the beauty, color, form, or whatever art and treasure have to give forth.

It is the same in the "sanctuary of Spirit." Nothing antagonistic to Spirit should be admitted. It is vitally necessary to "Stand porter at the door of thought" (S & H 392) and prevent the entrance of anything inimical to the Christ, the actual presence of God, Spirit; while at the same time whatever is protagonistic should be admitted. Thus is consciousness sanctified. It has become a "sanctuary of Spirit." Having then closed the door to error of every kind and opened it to Truth, Life, and Love, there will enter of its own accord, the very Christ, the Spirit, God; and you have "let this Mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Its entrance is quiet, unlabored, effortless, reminding one of the following:

*When would-be conquerors complain
In loud, imperious shout,
I think how gently falls the rain
That brings the flowers out,
How quietly the deepening dark
Bids countless fire-flies light their spark*

whereupon if anyone enters that consciousness, this “sanctuary of Spirit,” he will receive the things of Spirit, God. This Christ, this Spirit, this actual presence of God, which has entered consciousness, is “the Father within” of which Jesus so constantly spoke. He said,—God speaking as being Jesus—“When ye have lifted up the Son of man, (when you have sanctified consciousness, or made it a “sanctuary of Spirit”) then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things; and He that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left *me* alone; for I do always those things that please Him.” Could it be plainer?

This done, “man may have audience with Spirit.” (Ibid) What is an audience? Generally we have taken it for granted that it means we should make our desires known to God, and this has been for centuries man’s approach to God and method of prayer.

As Christian Scientists, we have long since ceased to pray by supplication, but is it not a fact that we have tried to tell God our wants and desires by contradictions of errors presented and to be gotten rid of, by affirmations and declarations of Truth opposed to and predicated on errors to be eradicated, by arguments, etc. All these indicating that we desire something which we do not really believe we have, in spite of our asseverations to the contrary? This is really an audition. Not an audience. To have an audience with God is to be silent, and listen to what God has to say to us, not to tell Him what we want. There is an homely old saying, “Don’t try to teach your grandmother how to knit,” and it is true. In the other sanctuaries referred to, we listen to the birds sing, we behold the works of the great masters; but we do not try to tell the birds how to sing, nor teach the great masters how to paint; and so in this “sanctuary of Spirit” we should listen to what God has to say to

us, rather than attempt the impossible, and try to tell Him our desires or inform the infinitely intelligent Mind, for the "intercommunication is always from God to His idea, man." (S & H 284)

Be alert then to make your consciousness a "sanctuary of Spirit." Station your guards about so they may intercept any evil suggestions which may attempt to enter. Note that "Lips must be mute and materialism silent," and so do not talk back to error nor argue with it, etc., for all that the devil wishes you to do is to recognize him, the human or mortal mind, the only devil there is or ever will be; and so surely as you do so, evil suggestions will have passed the portals of your thought. If, however, you are faithful and watchful to make your consciousness a "sanctuary of Spirit," then as in the other sanctuary you heard the birds singing, so now in that audience with Spirit, will you hear God's voice ringing forth and saying: "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land, for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of"; and "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;" and "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom;" and "Son thou art ever with Me, and all that I have is thine," so "Be of good cheer;" and "It shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord, thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field, blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face; and they shall come up against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and all that thou settest thine hand unto; and He shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish

thee a holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways," and "I will bless thee and keep thee, and I will make My face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, and I will lift up the light of My countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."