

Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers

If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live (Rom. 8:13b; KJV)

Lecture 10—Guidance for Troubled Souls (#4)

Chapters 12–13 (63–78)

I. Particular Direction 8: Use Such Meditations as Fill You With Self-Abasement

- A. The Excellency of the Majesty of God

- B. Our Unacquaintedness of Him

Objection 1: Moses saw God’s “back” but we see his “face”

1. There is a difference between the knowledge of God under the Old and New Covenants
 2. Moses’ sight of God was a gospel-sight
 3. The apostles teach our sight is still through a dim glass
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1. We know little of God, because it is God who is to be known
 - a. The Being of God
 - b. Believing and Admiring God
 2. We know little of God, because faith alone knows him

Objection 2: This is only true of unbelievers

1. We all know just enough to love, delight in, and serve God
2. Comparatively, our knowledge is greater than the Old Covenant saints
3. The difference in knowledge of God between believers and unbelievers is not in the matter but in the manner of their knowledge
4. Jesus by his Word and Spirit leads his people to God as Father
5. Despite this, what we know is but a little, since
 - a. Gospel revelation is not to unveil God's essence, but to lead us to faith
 - b. We are dull to receive what is in the Word

II. Particular Direction 9: Do Not Speak Peace to Yourself Until God Does

- A. It is God's Prerogative and Sovereignty to Give Grace to Whom He Will
- B. It is Christ's Prerogative to Speak it to the Conscience
- C. Rules Concerning Whether God Speaks Peace or We Speak it to Ourselves Only
 1. We speak peace to ourselves when we do not detest our sin
 2. We speak peace to ourselves when we base it upon mere rational principles

Question: How do we know when it is us alone or the Holy Spirit with us?

1. God will speedily let you know
2. God causes us to wait upon him

3. God sweetens the heart with rest and gracious contentation [satisfaction]
4. God amends our life

3. We speak peace to ourselves when we do it slightly
4. We speak peace to ourselves when we have another evil within us
5. We speak peace to ourselves when we are not humbled

Question: "When may we take comfort of a promise as our own?"

- a. Whenever God decides to speak it

Question: "How shall we know when he speaks?"

1. Receive peace when you are convinced that God speaks
2. Faith has a secret instinct that knows the voice of Christ

- b. Whenever God does good to your soul