

Letter 13

by James Bourne

The sermon emphasizes the importance of genuine faith and discernment in navigating spiritual experiences and influences.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5, 2 Corinthians 12:9, James 1:5, 1 Peter 5:10

Topics: "Faith And Doubt", "Gods Guidance"

Description

James Bourne expresses his concerns in a letter to his cousin, highlighting the challenges of facing criticism and misunderstanding from others regarding his faith and spiritual experiences. He acknowledges the importance of relying on God's grace in Christ Jesus to stand firm in the midst of deception and to overcome his own limitations. Bourne emphasizes the need to trust in God's guidance and wisdom, even when faced with opposition and accusations of narrow-mindedness.

Transcript

[To M. B.] London, 1819.

Dear Cousin,

I have many anxious fears about you, when I consider the reasoning of these people. All genuine experience is called impulse and natural, feeling; all faith without doubt, upon the written word, is called the true confidence; and all those sweet visitations and lifts by the way - all secret hints to keep me out of mischief - all spiritual counsel and direction to keep me from the paths of the destroyer, are called a narrow, bigoted spirit; and this being backed with that scripture - "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged" - seems right. I can only come off clear with this scripture-- "As deceivers, and yet true." Here, I trust, by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, I shall be able to stand till the day of judgment, and then all deception will be at an end; yet through grace I am made to feel my own blindness and helplessness.

Yours &c. J. B.

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