

April 2. 1678. the Interpretation of the Former Vision.

by Jane Lead

The sermon emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth, faith, wisdom, and understanding in our journey with God, and the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding us.

Scripture: Mark 9:23, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Hebrews 12:11, James 1:3

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Faith Transformation"

Description

Jane Lead preaches about the spiritual journey of refining the soul and transforming it into a heavenly dwelling place for the Spirit. She emphasizes the importance of breaking down the 'Golden Grain' within us through tribulations and trials, in order to be made ready for eternal life. Lead discusses the need to cultivate a strong and unwavering faith, free from doubt and fear, to activate the powerful engines of the soul for spiritual growth and transformation.

Transcript

The foregoing Vision was explained to me very emphatically. Concerning the fine Timbered-Mill, it was shewed that it did signifie the internal Frame and Habitation of the Spirit. Which sometimes may be in a cessation of motion, through the impairing of those Spiritual Engines, of the superiour Mind, that should powerfully work in their course for grinding down that, which is Food, for the Spirit to live upon. And what is that? but that precious Grain that is sown, and dissolved in the Ground of Christ, the Lord's pure Humanity. And we as in Union with him, have the same Life-Seed buried in our refined Earth, and of it springs up into a substantial Grain, contacted all of Heavenly-matter, and so an intire Body. But in this lieth the great Mystery, to have it made ready for Bread to eat thereof, and to live for ever. And how is this to be done? But by the superiour Engins of the Soul, as they are all set a work for the breaking and bruising this Golden Grain as into a Powder. For while it remains in an unbroken Body, no virtual Power and Strength can be felt. That is, as most do run up their Eye to a Glorified Humanity; not considering, that this must be drawn down into a dispersive Power, that so it might move through all, and every property, and this is that, which becomes Principally the saving Jesus to us. But it may be asked, what these Engins are? Or what these working-Powers are in a well, holy framed-mind, that can cull and separate, and winnow out from the husk and stalk, in which first appearance, it comes forth unready Meat for the Spirit thereof to eat? Now what must unhusk it of its chaffy-cloathing? but the threshing instrument, which must have a time to grow up into ripeness: then there will be a more easy separation of the vile husk from the solid Grain. Thus

through hand beating the Spiritual-seed is made meet for its Master's use. But it must undergo & endure many a sharp blow before the chaffy Matter will fly away. Which is known by experience, that we by many tribulations do pass through the fanning away, that, which does stick so close to the pure Life-seed, that is saved, and separated for so choice and eminent use, as to be dissolved, and made difusive through every part, as the only restorative Medicine. Which may make a full cure of the broken State, that the sinful husk of Mortality hath plunged us into. Therefore the Spirit by the similitude doth shew, what powerful Engines are to move for the grinding down, that which is the Golden-Stone, that is to make the transformation upon the Earthly part: For we do well know, that while the Sails do stand still, no encrease or multiplying-food is brought in to any effect. Which hath occasioned the great suffering in Spiritual-Famine, and Nakedness, upon which the Holy Spirit did counsel us to look into this Mysterious thing, and to observe these following Rules.

The First is to pluck off those old withered Sails, which were opened to be the Dead, Actless, and Lifeless Faith, that the sensitive Spirit hath putrefied and spoiled, so that the Heavenly-gales could have no Power to move the Wheel; nor can have force when the Sails of Faith are so torn, and divided betwixt doubting and believing, which is shewn to be the main stop, that the framed-Mill cannot work.

The Second Rule is to be of one absolute and entire Will, that may resist all contradiction to the antient and right kind of Faith, which the Saints of old possessed, by which all Wonders were wrought. One true Grain of Faith bruised, and dispersed through Nature's Ground, will flow out to do, and effect that, which the whole World cannot check. Oh where in this day are to be found those, who are trained up in Wisdom's-School to know the Art and Skill of spinning Faith's white Linnen-Sails, where no Warp is of the Woollen of sense, in which fear and doubting are mingled. It is no marvel, when we are called up to stir the superiour Engines of our Minds, that they are so dull and heavy, that they do not move. It is well given us to see, where the obstruction is. Therefore the Holy Spirit does us tell, that the great need there is for us to learn to spin the Thread of Faith, much more fine, single and longer out; for all yet have been too short, both for breadth and height, for the spreading out in concurrence with the Eternal gulf, that doth blow most deep from the Coelestial-World. Therefore into this secret we must search, and whom shall we make our Friend herein? But the Wisdom of the Mighty One, who will teach us to make this fine Linnen-Cloth for Sails, and to cloath our Household with Scarlet. Where to none we shall be inferiour, if once we come to make the Engin-Powers of God's Spirit in us to display, then it will be our day, wherein Strength, Riches, and Honour shall encompass us round as our blessing, when we have found this one Jewel of pure Faith.

O dear Wisdom, to thee we must repair for this and entreat thy favour very much, to drink of that Spicy-Cup: One Magia draught of which, will make us of a sharp and quick understanding, to perceive what lies under the covering of Humanity. Which hath been so thick a Vail, that we have good reason to enquire, what will rarify the sight, that so invisible things may be consipicious, and naked to the internal Eye, for that affects, and carries the Heart along with it. There is a Golden Ball, some which Wisdom's hand must drop into the Fire-Eye of the Soul, to make it of a bright shining Light; to be in the Vision of God; As John was, who could never have beheld the Heavenly things themselves, Characterized out in such a Metaphorical way, but through the gift of this rich Salve. Which in a wonderful mystical way is applied to the dim-Eye, which can behold nothing of Coelestial objects in the higher Sphere. Therefore this precious Oyntment is all meet, to be sought for, and though some have been here withal anointed, for divine Openings and internal Revelations, yet that is not sufficient. There is something else, that this is to effect, through often application hereof, for it must be a continued Act from the Hand of the Spirit of Wisdom till Vision shall transform into the likeness of those perfect Objects, and transparent things beheld.

Then it does its work fully, according as it is written, When we see him, we shall be like unto him. Then all the Engin-Powers of the Soul in their Primary-Glory will act, and discharge whatever hath clogged, and been a stop to their superiour motion, having new Spiritual faculties and members to work withal the mighty Deeds of God. Indeed then there will be no more complaint, that the Eye is blind, the Ear deaf, the Tongue bound, the Arm short for marvelous things to effect. Now then from this considerable teaching-word, consider what we are to follow on still for: till with this perfect Medicine, and all-Sovereign Potion, we are enriched by free donation. Ah Lord! For this remember us: who have sought this rich Grain, and Eye-Salve, wholly and fully.

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