

A CONSCIOUS FAITH.

Address.: For God speaketh once, yea twice,
Yet man perceiveth it not (Job. 33, 14.)

ESSAY
ON
FAITH.

A United Church Sunday school once ran an Essay Contest. The topic of the essay was "Who is God?" It was my privilege to hear one of the contestants essays read. This lad had already gone on the "great journey" and his pastor read it out at the funeral service. Thirteen years old when he wrote it it was some seven years later that we heard it. I wish I could remember it verbatim to give to you this morning. It impressed me so at the time that I have not forgotten the idea the lad wanted to put into writing. It began in this vein. God is there. We cannot see him because his is a Spiritual Presence. He is beside us just the same. We can speak to him and he hears us. He speaks to us through our conscience. Although we do not always do the things we should, God still loves us and will help us to do right if we will try. The ^{essay closed} ending of the essay ^{with} were the words "God is with us always, even after death."

FAITH OF
PARENTS
TEACHERS.

That essay spoke volumes for the efforts of his parents, his Sunday school and Sunday school teachers. Greater far it was a tribute to the conscious voice of God as he speaks to everyone.

In our selection from the Old Testament Elisha is reasoning with Job, offering himself with sincerity and meekness as another human to comfort Job in his trouble. He tells him in 33 v. 14 "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not."

CONSCIENCE
IN
(STRAIGHT)
JACKET

How often do we put our conscience into the strait-jacket of our own desires? God tries so hard to speak to us, to lead us to do his will and yet we seldom give it much thought let alone trying to solve some of our problems with his assistance. We pray when we are in trouble and yet so often we forget that there is power outside ourselves if we will but reach out for it in humility and faith. Quite often prayer is but a routine duty and faith that our prayers are heard then also become routine.

As farmers we have more knowledge of faith than we realize. It does not matter what the season we always sow our crops in faith that harvest time

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FAITH IN
NATURE.

will bring its own reward. After years of experience we find that we have faith in many things of nature because of their unfailing recurrence. As farmers we deal first hand with life itself, the miracle of the sprouting grain, greening fields, the newborn calf and chicken have become commonplace routine with us. Yet the miracle of life is ever new and so often we miss God's hand in our everyday work because the routine of life has dulled our sense of being partners with a Power that is beyond our ken.

GOD IN
EVERYDAY
WORK.

How often do we greet a new minister in our charges with perhaps the subconscious hope in our hearts that he will have something new to bring us. Some new hope, some change that we have looked for. Yet in us lies the power to bring about that change. Just as the seed within itself has power to change when touched by moisture and warmth so we have latent power within ourselves to change, but first we must reach upward to God in sincere prayer and faith if we want to become as he would have us.

POWER IN
OURSELVES
FOR
CHANGE

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SOME OF THE
BEST PREACHING
IS DONE
BY
HOLDING YOUR
TONGUE.

God touches us in many ways in order to guide us the way he wishes us to go. I remember a man once noted for his terrible temper and rages. His family and neighbors at last accepted his outbursts as just another cross in living with him. Then one day during one of his terrible outbursts he was suddenly stopped by his small son. The lad wasn't doing anything but quietly looking at him. "Well, what's the matter with you!" the father roared. "What are you standing there gawping at me like that for?"

"I was just thinking, Daddy"

"Well thinking what?"

"I was just thinking that you are not like my Daddy at all when you get so mad and swear so!"

Then and there the father resolved that he would try and overcome his temper and language and a neighbor said that the change in the man was miraculous. Yes, God touches us in many ways and offers each of us a share of his power if we have faith to reach up to him and grasp it.