

Message 19

Immortality

Henry Ward Beecher – July 5, 1915

Immortality means so much more than a mere continuation of life. It means not only a continuation of life, but a life that has in it the Divine Love or essence of the Father which makes the spirit who has that love a divinity itself, and not the subject of death of any kind. No mere spirit has this immortality just because it is continuing to live in the spirit world, and cannot conceive that by any possibility that continuity of life can ever be arrested or ended. No such spirit knows that to be true, because never has it been demonstrated, as a fact, and cannot be until eternity has come to an end. Such spirit is no different in its essence and potentialities from what it was when enfolded in the flesh, and has no greater reason for believing that it is immortal than it had when on earth.

I confess that in my life, while a great student of the Bible, I never comprehended the true meaning of how, or in what way, Jesus brought immortality to light. I thought, as many others do now that his death and resurrection were the things that showed to mankind the reality of immortality. But these things showed no more, as I now see, than did the numerous instances recorded in the Old Testament and in the secular writings of the philosophers and adepts of India and Egypt that, there was an existence after so-called death.

Then what have I learned immortality to be since I have been in the spirit world?

Only the Father is immortal, and only those to whom He gives His attributes of immortality, can become immortal as He is. Love is the great principle of immortality, and by this I mean the Divine Love of the Father and not the natural love of the creature. And he who possesses this Divine Love becomes as it were, a part of it, or it becomes a part of him, and in its operations makes him like unto the Father. In other words, a spirit who possesses this Divine Love becomes a part of Divinity itself, and, consequently, Immortal, and there is no possibility of his ever becoming deprived of this element of Divinity.