

## RULE NUMBER FOURTEEN

**The most important rule of all is, that you must have faith.** It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires, character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts, and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. We must believe that God will never forfeit his word. And we can have confidence that he that takes notice of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of his own word, and throw a barrier around it, and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in his word, from erring far from the truth, though they may not understand Hebrew or Greek.

These are some of the most important rules which I find the word of God warrants me to adopt and follow, in order for system and regularity. And if I am not greatly deceived, in so doing, I have found **the Bible**, as a whole, one of the most **simple, plain, and intelligible** books ever written, containing **proof in itself** of its divine origin and full of all knowledge that our hearts could wish to know or enjoy. I have found it a treasure which the world cannot purchase.

- It gives a **calm peace** in believing, and a **firm hope** in the future.
- It **sustains the mind** in adversity, and **teaches us to be humble** in prosperity.
- It **prepares us to love and do good to others**, and **to realize the value of the soul**.
- It **makes us bold and valiant for the truth**, and **nerves the arm to oppose error**.
- It gives us a **powerful weapon to break down infidelity**, and **makes known the only antidote for sin**.
- It **instructs us how death will be conquered**, and **how the bonds of the tomb must be broken**.
- It **tells us of future events**, and shows the preparation necessary to meet them.
- It **gives us an opportunity to hold conversation with the King of kings**, and **reveals the best code of laws ever enacted**.

This is but a faint view of its value; yet how many perishing souls treat it with neglect, or, what is equally as bad, treat it as a **hidden mystery** which cannot be known. Oh my dear reader, **make it your chief study**. Try it well, and you will find it to be all I have said. Yes, like the Queen of Sheba, you will say the half was not told you.

The divinity taught in our schools is **always** founded on some sectarian creed. It may do to take a blank mind and impress it with this kind, but it will always end in bigotry. **A free mind will never be satisfied with the views of others.** Were I a teacher of youth in divinity, I would first learn their capacity and mind. If these were good, I would make them study the Bible for themselves, and send them out free to do the world good. But if they had no mind, I would stamp them with another's mind, write bigot on their forehead, and send them out as slaves.

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