

Volume 5, Day 18: My Own Convictions or God's

"The Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand." There is no mistaking when Our Lord speaks. He always brings correction to the understanding. Have you heard the voice of God directly? If so, you cannot mistake the intimate insistence with which it entered your soul. He has spoken to you in the language you know best, not through your ears, but through your circumstances.

God must destroy our determined confidence in our own convictions - "I know this is what I should do." Suddenly the voice of God speaks in a way that overwhelms us by revealing the depths of our ignorance and selfishness. We have shown our ignorance of Him in the very way we determined to serve Him. We serve Jesus in a spirit that is not His. We insult Him when we try to defend His honor. It's almost as though we think that we have more credibility than He does. How foolish! Our words may sound right, but our spirit is that of an enemy of God. He rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of." The Spirit of our Lord, in an advocate of His, is described in 1 Corinthians 13 (the essence of love personified).

Have I been making a mockery of Jesus by a zealous determination to serve Him **in my own way**? If I feel I have done my duty and yet have hurt Him in doing it, I may be sure it was not my duty, because it has not fostered the meek and quiet spirit, but the spirit of self-satisfaction. We imagine that whatever is unpleasant is our duty! Is that anything like the spirit of our Lord - "I delight to do Thy will, O my God."

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences: