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# The condition of spiritual knowledge

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## The Condition of Spiritual Knowledge

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All knowledge is conditional. From the child who learns, for the first time, his multiplication table, to the man who makes magnificent calculations among the stars this law is true. Each must study & investigate. True, there is an ever increasing fund of knowledge which is the heritage of the race; and as one says "Each generation stands upon the shoulders of the past." Still the law holds good, for the acquisition of this knowledge, is conditioned by

the personal affliction of the individual. History carries us, by easy steps, back to the Roman Empire when the known world was compassed in the regions about the Mediterranean. But the globe was here then as today. No one had as yet come under the conditions of knowing it. What was that condition? Exploration. Men yielded to this condition & found their way.

They pushed up through Germany into the frozen steppes of Russia, & then down through sunny Gaul to Hispania, & then across the English Channel to those three "peru cas-

"Kato of the rock", & over the blue ex-  
 panner to America till at last the  
 globe was belted & the dream of  
 Columbus was realized. Other  
 lines opened in like manner.

To the question what is in the <sup>earth</sup>  
 as well as on it, the Geologist an-  
 swers in "The Testimony of the Rocks".

Then with eye turned upward  
 man asks what is above the earth.  
 Thus the science of Astronomy is born  
 & men begin to think "God's thoughts  
 after Him". Under like condi-  
 tions all science has developed.

Study & investigation have opened  
 the pathway to knowledge.

In this pathway men have found three provinces, as it were. One purely material, a second purely mental and a third purely spiritual.

These interpenetrate at different points and thus all knowledge is correlated: and yet they are distinctive enough to be called separate. The proper medium must be used for the interpretation of each of these provinces.

The fine sensors mediate between man & material objects. The capacities of the mind are essential to the proper understanding of the mental range & in like manner there must

be some medium through which the spiritual realm may be known.

What is that medium? Scripture teaches that it is the eye of faith.

Then how inappropriate is it to apply mental or physical media to the spiritual realm! And yet this<sup>is</sup> what men do constantly. Thomas was not satisfied till he was allowed to thrust his hand into the wounds of his Master; but Jesus said "blessed is he who has not seen & yet has believed". Every age brings forth its materialist - Thomas. Modern skepticism is not new. It stands in closest connection with similar

moments of all past times. The amount of Christ must be probed by this rampant unbelief - often to satisfy only vulgar curiosity.

Because there is not a walking tangible Christ men deny the existence of any Christ. How can they expect to find Him, or to know Him, by knocking at a spiritual door with material knuckles.

"They must come under the law."  
 "Spiritual things are spiritually discerned". The intellect may be convinced by the internal & external evidences of Christianity; but real soul-satisfying knowledge can be

obtained only through the medium  
 of faith. But it is objected right  
 here. faith is dormant in natural  
 man; or, at least, clouded. How  
 shall this great interpreter of spir-  
 itual things be enabled to exercise  
 its functions rationally? Jesus  
 furnished us the answer & that  
 answer reveals the true Condition  
 of Spiritual Knowledge. In the  
 Gospel by John, our Lord says to  
 those desiring to know the way - "If  
 any man will do His will he shall  
 know of the doctrine; or, as the Revis-  
 ed Version has it, "If any man wil-  
 lett to do His will he shall know



of the teaching." Sublime truth!

Oh! but some say this is a scorching  
 condition. <sup>True but</sup> Sincerity of will is the  
 first & last essential. We must  
 be willing to stand under the blaze  
 of truth, & let it burn up our  
 dearest treasures, if need be, in  
 order to true knowledge. Here, &  
 here only, can be found that Grace  
 which the heart ever craves. Our  
 writer says "This true reconciliation  
 is found in such a self-surrender-  
 ing identification of the self as-  
 serting soul with the superior ob-  
 jective power as it over satisfies  
 its consciousness of dependence.

& enables it through that very iden-  
 tification to actualize its highest  
 will & to achieve its highest satis-  
 faction." This is the Christian idea  
 of religion. Under its influence a new  
 life breaks upon the soul; & this <sup>life</sup> is the  
 supreme evidence for the Christian  
 Theist. At last the fogs of un-  
 belief are pierced. Sunbeams en-  
 ter his heart & chase the gloom a-  
 way. He knows, now, for he has  
 accepted the condition, & received  
 the Christian consciousness. There  
 may be mists in the valley; but the  
 mountains beyond are tipped with  
 amber & gold. He understands

That he sees only "as in a mirror dark-ly" but he does see. While in this mortal existence he can "know only in part" but he may know.

And here he rests, & is satisfied ~~to~~ to wait, until the veil shall be entirely swept away; & he shall see "Eye to eye", & "know even as he is known".