

Dearly Beloved Wife,

Feeling my mind for some days past led into near sympathy and fellow-feeling with thee, in that love that many waters cannot quench, nor time or distance lessen, I have been watching [for] an opportunity to commune with thee in this way, and salute thee with endeared affection, desiring, my dear, that grace, mercy, and peace may be with thee and abound. And this, no doubt, will be thy comfortable experience, as thou, like humble Mary, art careful often to retire to the feet of the Blessed Emanuel and wait to be put forth by him in all thy movements. For in his presence only, there is life, and at his right hand, rivers of pleasure.

- Letter to Jemima Hicks, 3rd month 12th 1819

But until mankind comes rightly to believe in the Inward Light – and receive it as a redeeming principle sufficient for their complete salvation, as they obey it in all its manifestations – they cannot have any just and correct ideas of God, of heaven, or of the right way of salvation. And of course, [they] must remain in ignorance as to those things.

- Letter to William Poole, 23rd of 7th month 1820

... we cannot (agreeable to the doctrine and precepts of the gospel) be heirs of two kingdoms at the same time, whose interests are opposite to each other, which is undoubtedly the case with the Mediator's Kingdom and all the kingdoms and governments of this world, as they are all set up and supported by violence and the sword, and his [Christ's Kingdom] by suffering and the cross.

- Letter to John Murray, Jr. in 1809

... having, for a considerable time past, found from full conviction that there is scarcely anything so baneful to the present and future happiness and welfare of mankind as a submission to tradition and popular opinion, I have, therefore, been led to see the necessity of investigating for myself all customs and doctrines – whether of a moral or of a religious nature, either verbally or historically communicated, by the best and greatest of men or angels – and not to sit down satisfied with anything but the plain, clear, demonstrative testimony of the Spirit and Word of Life and Light in my own heart and conscience – and which has led me to see how very far all the professors of Christianity are from the real spirit and substance of the Gospel.

- Letter to Phebe Willis, 5th month 19th 1818