

THE POSTSCRIPT.

Dependence on Christ.

LIVE in dependence upon Christ, in the exercise of faith upon God in Christ. Trust him in all, for all, with all. Trust him with all your concerns, for soul and body, for this life and eternity, for yourselves and posterity. Have confidence in him. You can have no fellowship or intimacy with one in whom you have not confidence. So far as you have fears, doubts, suspicions, jealousy, distrust of him, so far you will be estranged from him. These will keep you off from him, as from one whom you cannot fully trust; and will disoblige him, and so keep him off from you. These, so far as they prevail, will occasion a mutual distance and

estrangement, which will not stand with near and mutual fellowship.

When you find anything too hard and difficult for you—sin, the world, temptation, any spiritual duty, any service—he calls you to commit your way to him (Psa. xxxvii. 5). When you find anything too heavy for you—any want, affliction, suffering—when it proves too burdensome, cast it upon him. “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee” (Psa. lv. 22). He will show the part of an intimate friend, and put his shoulder under, and not suffer thee to shrink, to be moved, much less to sink. When you are apt to be troubled, perplexed, solicitous about anything, cast that care upon him (1 Pet. v. 7; Phil. iv. 6).

Those who have lived most in communion with God have lived most in

the exercise of faith; trusting him with all they have, in all they fear, for all they want. Walking in communion with God is a walking by faith, not by sense: not making sensible objects, persons, or things, their support and confidence; but renouncing all confidence in the flesh, or in the arm of flesh, or in those things which a carnal heart has recourse to for support. Rely on, and stay yourselves upon God (Isa. 1. 10), else you will walk in darkness, not see your way to communion with God, nor discern the comfort of it. There is perfect peace and repose in this communion; but how may one come by it? (See Isa. xxvi. 3.) While you stay yourselves on God, and go leaning on him, you are near him, he is near you, you are in fellowship with him. This is the posture of

intimate friends ; thus they enjoy one another ; herein their communion shows itself.—*Clarkson's Sermons.* A.D. 1696.

“ My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour Divine !
Now hear me while I pray ;
Take all my guilt away ;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly thine.

“ May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire :
As thou hast died for me,
Oh may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless
A living fire.

“ While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide :
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.”

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