

his conscience ; but if the question of his strength in the flesh were raised, all he had to say of himself was, I have denied the Lord ; and were it not for His pure grace, I could not open my mouth. Jesus never reproached Peter with his sin in those conversations He had with him. There is never the question, Why hast thou denied me ? No ; on the contrary, He acts according to that expression of love of the Holy Spirit, "I will remember their sins no more." Jesus had forgotten all. But their was one thing He had to show Peter, it was the root of the sin, the point where he had failed. Peter had boasted of more love to Jesus than the rest ; and Peter had failed more than all.

Then Jesus said to him, "Lovest thou Me more than these ?" Where is now Peter's self-confidence ? Jesus repeats three times, "Lovest thou Me ?" Peter's answer is, "Thou knowest all things ; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He appeals to Jesus and to His divine knowledge ; "Thou knowest that I love Thee." This is what Jesus did for Peter, and that after his fall.

Peter seems to say "I confide in Thee, Thou knowest how I have denied Thee, do with me what seemeth Thee good." Then we see Jesus sustaining His disciple's heart. [He had said], "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." What enabled him to strengthen his brethren ? His denial had so taught him what the flesh was, that he would no longer bind himself to anything : he knew that he had nothing to do save to trust God.