

1. A desire to please God. Now we cannot really endeavour to please those whom we do not love. This desire can only arise from love to God.

2. A grateful appreciation of the mercy of God towards him. David could not forget the way the Lord had cared for him. It was a grateful utterance.

3. A determination to serve God under all circumstances. He had devoted himself to God. He hated sin. He would be separate from sinners ; he would shun their company. He loved the Lord's house ; he had made up his mind to publish his thanksgivings to God in the congregations of the righteous. This was consecration.

4. It meant that the disheartening and disappointing experience of a divided heart was done with. He was now in a large room (Ps. xxxi. 8). There was a sense of joyous freedom with peace-giving safety. Obviously he was enjoying the blessed results of fullness of salvation.

The same standing ground is offered still to all the children of God. There is "even ground" for the soul, and hundreds of happy believers are enjoying its felicity at this very time. They know by blessed experience the wonderful change from the rough and rugged way they once toiled over, when they so mistrusted their loving Saviour, when they were actually afraid to read His word lest they should come upon some command of His that would be disobeyed, when they were held in slavish bondage by the fear of man, and dared scarcely to speak His dear name.

"How did the change come about?" Some by reading the word of God found out that God had a much better way of living for Him than they had hitherto known. They read, believed, confessed their past unfaithfulness, consecrated themselves fully to God, and, like David, determined to serve Him at all costs. Having done this, they believed unto sanctification, and the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding," filled their soul. They had got upon even ground. Others were convinced by the testimony of living witnesses. They noticed the change in manner, in life, in results. They noticed the reality of the change, then humbly sought the same great blessing ; and having gone the same way by confession and consecration, and unwavering faith in the promises of God, have found an entrance to the same ever-blessed even ground.

This even ground is well laid ; it is solid, safe, and sure. It was prepared in love for the enjoyment of God's believing children. It is by the sure mercies of God kept open night and day. It is preserved from the spoiler. "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there ; but the redeemed shall walk there." (Isa. xxxv. 9.)

Space will not permit of further description of the provision, so ample is it, made by our gracious Lord for those who feed on His bounty in this beautiful even ground. All those who dwell there freely extol the goodness