

important matter, in which we solemnly engage to serve God wholly, cost what it will ; and if this be done publicly it is like cutting down the bridge that separates from the world, making retreat impossible.

4. Fourthly, we notice the existence of an intense, burning desire for the blessing in all its fulness. This manifests in the all-absorbing earnestness with which it is sought, and the urgency of the divinely vehement prayers offered up for it, even reminding the Lord Jesus of his own words, "If I wash thee not thou hast no part with me."

5. The last characteristic we notice is the presence of that living faith that fully sanctifies. It is such a trust, such a reliance on the written word of the divine testimony as voluntarily, unhesitatingly, fully commits itself to such acts as are in themselves the most strongly marked, and the highest expression of that confidence. Thus Abraham went out at the command of God ? not knowing whither he went ; and thus he took Isaac to the mount of sacrifice. In this faith Daniel entered the lion's den, and the three Hebrew children the burning fiery furnace ; and in this faith Immanuel, the innocent Lamb of God, committed himself into the hands of wicked men to be crucified, knowing that thus he should get the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession ; and this faith is eminently characteristic of that act of the living Christian by which he comes out from the world, separates himself, touches not the unclean thing, because he believes that word, "I will receive you," and his eye resting on that or some other divinely illuminated promise, he dies to sin, he is sprinkled and whiter than snow ; he is made whole ; he is cleansed and filled with peace and righteousness and joy ; triumphantly and sweetly singing :

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the pris'ner free ;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood avails for me."

This in few words is the glorious process of a full salvation, and the exulting soul is sweetly reassured and greatly strengthened by remembering just here that Jesus is just as able to keep as he is to save, for "He is able to keep that which we have committed unto His care unto that day." Thus, assuredly, calmly and fully do those that believe enter into rest. This crowning act and exercise of saving faith is like that of a traveller who stands on the margin of a deep, swift river at midnight. The other side he must gain, and as he waits he hears cheering voices from beyond the stream telling him to step out that there is a solid highway beneath his feet, yet he hesitates to make the venture ; backward he cannot go, the woods are all on fire, he must cross that flood or die.

How fearfully, how tremblingly he stands. He cannot hold on to the bank and let himself down to test the bridge, it is too far below the level of his feet, he must trust his all to the testimony of the loving voices that are calling him away, and boldly, confidently drop on the rock beneath, even though it be all invisible and impalpable. 'Tis done, he bounds from the shore and lighting down on the divine faithfulness as on adamant, and swiftly touching