

He will do the best for us. If I believe in my heart that God reigns in the heavens and on the earth, that He controls all the events of my life, and if I do the very best I can, I need not be anxious about the result. I shall take my place at His feet, and say, "Thy will, not mine, be done." If we give the idea that God rules a central place in our thoughts, then, having done our best, we can calmly await the result, leaving it in His hands. Undue solicitude will not then disturb the quietude of the soul. I think that the reason that God is displeased with worrying and fretting, is that it shows unbelief or distrust. If, after having faithfully used the means at our disposal, we fret or worry about the result, we show either that we do not believe that He rules, or that we do not feel sure the result is safe in His hands. In this way our conduct is dishonoring to God, and therefore we should guard against this feeling. We should cast all our anxiety upon God.

Let us now, in closing, have a few illustrations of the way in which our anxiety may be cast upon God.

The husbandman goes forth in the spring time to sow his fields. He ploughs and harrows the soil, and then carefully drills in his seed. That is all he can do. The rest is in God's hands. By being anxious he cannot make one grain of wheat germinate. By fretting, he cannot make one drop of rain come down from the clouds. That is all in God's hands, and He should be trusted to do what is best. There is no use in worrying; it will do no good. Do you tell me it is hard not to worry sometimes? Yes, I know it is hard, but I know also that it is hard because the human heart does not confide perfectly in God's goodness and wisdom. He sends the former and the latter rains as seems good to Him, and if he really cares for us as He says He does, and will do what is best for us, we can leave the matter in His hands, and be at rest: "Casting all

your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you."

Take another illustration. A Christian woman is engaged in her household duties. Week after week she strives to do the best she can; but the current seems to be against her, and family affairs do not seem to be prospering under her ministry. One thing after another seems to turn up to worry her, and rasp on her nerves, and sometimes everything seems to go wrong. What should she do? She should do the best she can to advance the interests of the family, and confide as to the result in the goodness and wisdom of God, believing that He will do the best for her. In other words, she should cast her anxiety upon God, believing that He cares for her.

One illustration more, and I am done. A Christian mother bends over her first-born as he lies in his cot. The death-damps are gathering around his brow, and the spirit seems about to take its flight to the home of God. All that medical skill could do has been done, and the child has been nursed with the tenderest affection. The mother has used all the means at her disposal, and the result is in the hands of God. If she believes in her heart that God cares for her and for her child, and that He will do what is best for both, she can cast her anxiety upon Him, confiding in His wisdom and goodness. She can say,

"Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be,"—

say it with a sorrowful heart, it is true, but with a heart that is resigned and submissive, because it knows that "He doeth all things well."

Oh, if we all embraced this principle of living, how many restless hearts would become calm and peaceful, and how many burdens would roll from tired shoulders! May He who "pitieth us like as a father pitieth his children," teach us how to obey this blessed command, to "cast all our anxiety upon Him."