

THE PLACE OF FAITH, THE WORK OF FAITH, AND THE PRESENT REWARD OF FAITH.

(HEBREWS VI.)

As we have no place on earth, but are called out of it, our place now must necessarily be only known to faith and held by faith ; and if I am not in faith, I must lose sight of my place. The word of God gives gives me my *place*, declares it to me, and it is by faith that I abide in it. If I am "going on to perfection," I am discerning things good and evil : the favours of God have not been in vain to me. I am not like the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, only to bring forth thorns and briers. I hold by faith the place which God has given me, and I abide therein, occupied with the interests of God and not my own. If I am in a place of faith, I must be dependent on God, and therefore taking thought for myself is a divergence from the place of faith.

Now if I am not in the *place* of faith, I cannot properly engage in the *works* of faith. If I depart from the place to which alone I am called, it is plain that I cannot do the things suitable or incumbent on me in that place ; but, on the contrary, every attempt that I make at them must tend to damage and hinder others. Abram was called