

doing any thing myself, therefore I make the Lord my strength, and go to battle in the power of his might. I am sure all will be well so long as I am kept humble. O! pray that I may be a good soldier of Jesus Christ; but above all, ask for me humility; an humble man can come to no harm, he will ever be trusting in the Lord, because he finds nothing in himself to trust in; while he gives God great glory by trusting much in him, God gives him great grace, and this grace is to keep alive an abiding sense of what he is in himself, to shew him his ignorance and helplessness, to open to him daily more of the mystery of iniquity, to discover to him the stirrings of corruptions which others feel not, and make him sensible of these even in duties and ordinances, that he may loath himself and his very best works. These are the fruits of true grace, and he that is under the teaching of the Holy Spirit will abound in them; the more he does in the heart the more he humbles it. The great design of his grace, is to bring the proud sinner low, and then to keep him low. When he has brought us low, we do not like to be kept there, we want to get up again; our foolish desire is that he may do something in us, for which we may have a good opinion of ourselves; and so with this thought we are apt to wish, O that I was more holy! O that I could but pray better! O that I 'was more spiritual in duties! O that I was but thankful enough.' If you could come to the true motive of these wishes, specious as they appear, you would find them spring from the secret workings of a proud, self-righteous spirit; take off their fine cloak of holiness, and their language and meaning is plainly this. 'I wish God would give me something for which I might be better pleased with myself.' If this was the case, would not the eye be turned inward upon this very good self, and be drawn off from looking to Jesus? and so far as self is made something, Christ is made nothing; you may depend upon this as one of the surest axioms of divinity, whatsoever it be which makes you *pleased* with yourself, that is not true grace; & whatsoever makes you *displeased* with yourself, is not true grace, unless it bring you humble to Christ, and make you put more trust and confidence in him.

**FINIS.**