

such fiery trials try them, as if some strange thing had happened unto them. They say, if it had been an enemy I could have borne it, but as it was thou, my familiar friend, with whom I took sweet counsel, and with whom I walked to the house of God, how can I endure it, seeing Him who is invisible in it.

Nevertheless there has nothing happened to any of us, in this respect, but what is common to all God's followers, and professors of holiness will ever find their most serious trials apparently to originate with sincere Christians.

For our own part, we can say that some of our severest fights of faith have been caused by the words or acts of sincere professors of holiness, and we presume that we ourselves have been a source of real trial to others.

But in every case, when we have taken the matter to God, the trial, although not joyous but grievous in the passing, has invariably wrought in us the peaceable fruits of righteousness. So we come to the conclusion that *nothing* can harm us if we be followers of that which is good. And, further, we conclude that the professor of holiness, who has been wounded in the house of his friends, if he still broods over it, if it still stirs up agitation, even in thought, has not cast his burden fully on the Lord—has not obtained the full ministry of the Spirit in this matter.

Be careful for nothing must certainly take in all such trials, or else *nothing* must take to itself another definition than that given to it by lexicographers. But notice that when the trial is made known to God in believing prayer, and incensed with thanksgiving for the very trial itself, the peace of God, passing all understanding, takes full possession of heart and mind. To us it has been one of the most wonderful facts in our Christian experience, when, after some damaging charge against our character or motives of action, we have complied with the apostolic injunction, and taken it to God in believing prayer, the whole matter, which at first tended to stir up our intensest feeling, and agitate us most profoundly, and to prompt us to vindicate our assailed reputation, by every power of lip and pen, has suddenly seemed to become a thing of the hoary past, and any action we have been called to take, whether in writing, speaking, or praying has been done as if for another, and for another's welfare. Thus are the inspired words made true in our experience—a peace which passeth *all understanding*. This, we infer, is the experience of all of God's people who carry out these divine instructions during such fiery trials.