

bought for me with His own blood. The whole of the hymn is the language of a soul deeply convicted of inbred impurity, and intensely longing for full deliverance. In it he says :

“ More hard than marble is my heart,  
And foul with sins of deepest stain ;  
But Thou the might Saviour art,  
Nor flowed thy cleansing blood in vain ;  
Ah, soften, melt this rock, and may  
Thy blood wash all these sins away ! ”

In 1744, in the evening, while I was reading prayers at Snowsfield, I found such light and strength as I never remember to have had before. I saw every thought, as well as action or word, just as it was rising in my heart, and whether it was right before God or tainted with pride or selfishness.

I waked the next morning, by the grace of God, in the same spirit ; and about eight, being with two or three that believed in Jesus, I felt such an awe and tender sense of the presence of God as greatly confirmed me therein ; so God was before me all day long. I sought and found Him in every place, and could truly say, when I lay down at night, Now I have lived a day.

In 1765, he writes to an opponent : “ The main point between you and me is perfection ; this you say, ‘ I should think it my duty to oppose with my whole strength as a dangerous mistake which appears to be subversive of the very foundation of Christian experience. ’ Now, whether you desire this blessing or not, is it not an astonishing thing that you should be disgusted at me for expecting it, and that they should persuade one another that this hope is subversive of the very foundations of Christian experience. Why, then, whosoever retains it cannot possibly have any Christian experience at all. Then my brother, Mr. Fletcher, and I, and thirty thousand more, who seem to both fear and love God, are in a silly children of the devil. In God’s name, show me by plain, strong reasons what dishonour this hope does to Christ, wherein it opposes justification by faith. ”

In 1771, he writes : “ Many years since I saw that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. I began by following after it. Ten years after, God gave me a clearer view than I had before how to obtain it, namely, by faith in the Son of God, and immediately I declared to all, ‘ we are saved from sin, we are