

and mighty power, his unsearchable riches, and enduring faithfulness. The contemplation of what the gospel reveals, is naturally calculated to produce that faith which it requires.

Take heed also of confounding the revealed will of God with his secret purposes, by entangling yourself with any doubtful inquiry whether you have been elected and predestinated to eternal life. The particular decrees of God are not the immediate object of your faith; they cannot be discovered till they be accomplished; nor can you do any thing more preposterous, than presumptuously to pry into the secret counsels of the Almighty, instead of complying with what he has expressly required. You are not presently called to determine what God has purposed concerning you, but to hear what he has revealed in his word, to believe in the sincerity of his gracious declarations, and trust in him for that salvation which he has graciously exhibited.

Consider the Lord, therefore, as *presently addressing you*, as much as any others, by the various declarations, invitations, and promises of the gospel; and sincerely *reply* to what he says, by turning his word into the prayer of faith. You have no occasion for saying, "Who shall ascend into heaven, to bring Christ down from above?" The word is nigh, in your mouth and in your heart, and the Lord is nigh to observe how you receive it. If you had been a hearer of Christ, in the time of his personal ministry when he said, "Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," would you not have replied, "Behold I come unto thee,