

truths of God's Word; many souls are deceived sadly in this way,—they are too evil, too wicked, too unworthy, to think such blessings are really for them NOW. They think it would be presumptuous for them to believe *all* this; they will believe a *little* of it, but not *all* that God says. All such I would solemnly warn, that their thoughts of unworthiness, etc., and their fear of being presumptuous is nothing more than the **PRETENDED HUMILITY OF UNBELIEF**. What does God say of this? He tells you that you are making Him to be a **LIAR**.

(Read thoughtfully 1 John v. 10-12.) In order to enter into the kingdom of heaven, we must become as *little children*,—ready to believe **ALL** that the Father tells us, without hesitation (*Matthew xviii. 3*).

Verses 8. There are four things that Peter is bidden to do immediately after he is set free,—*first*, to gird himself; *second*, to bind on his sandals; *third*, to cast his garment about him; *fourth*, to follow the Angel.

First—"Gird Thyself." In the admonitions of the Angel we see exemplified the truth of *James ii. 14-26*: the **PROVING OF OUR FAITH BY WORKS**, not to get freedom from our chains, but because we **HAVE GOT FREE**, as Peter then was free. Mark this **important point**. Such multitudes of souls are striving *their best* to get free from the chains of their sins by good works—as they call them—but which God calls *dead works*, not seeing that they *cannot* gird themselves as the Angel directs, neither can they follow Him until they **HAVE BEEN MADE FREE** by true faith in the finished work of Christ.

Girding was necessary to those who wore the long loose Eastern garments, before they could commence work of any sort, or active exertion in walking, running, etc. Thus the first thing for a soul set free to do, is to make itself ready for active service for the Lord, to use whatever gift the Lord may give for such service; and such girding must be accord-

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