

limited. The power of Satan is far short of divine power. Though so ubiquitous by his countless agents, he is not personally omnipotent; nor is he omniscient. He cannot read the thoughts of the heart. He cannot foresee the future, further than by reason and experience of the past. He cannot act apart from, or in opposition to the permission granted him by the Almighty. He is under divine control. Witness his assaults upon Job. He could not lay a finger upon that pious patriarch until he received permission from God, and then only to the extent specified. Look again, at his attempts upon Peter. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." Likewise, amidst all the trials and conflicts and temptations of the present life, we may hear the voice of our God, charging this wicked apostate—"Touch not mine anointed." Yet, the command addressed to us is—"Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

But we may be able to stand, let us carefully guard our *outward senses*, particularly the eye and the ear. These are often the devil's landing places, where he disembarks his emissaries and troops, who endeavor to march triumphantly into the interior, and reach our hearts.

Let us also watch our *weak points*.

We all have our weak points. However strong and active, and holy we may be, there is some weak point in the character of each one here to-day. I have mine. You have yours; and you know what it is better than I do. These must be carefully watched, lest through them we fall victims to "the wiles of the devil." Some of you are able to recall the old Greek fable concerning the brave Achilles, who when a child was plunged by his mother into the river Styx, and was thereby rendered invulnerable in every part of his body, but his heel, by which she held him. He went to Troy and distinguished himself as the bravest of the Greeks in a war against that city, by performing deeds of valor, till at last an arrow hit him in the one weak point, and he fell. This story often finds its parallel in the Church of God. Some veteran in the Lord's army, who has distinguished himself on many an occasion, who has fought bravely and well for his Captain suddenly falls and all men wonder. Ah! there was some weak point in his armor. The devil found it out and smote him there. Thus it was with Noah, with Abraham, with Moses, with David, with Peter, and a host of eminent saints since then. O Christian soldiers, let the possibility of your fall, induce you to put this armor on, and look well to it. Let all parts of it be bright and glittering. See that there is no weak spot in your breast-