

Spirit, to intimate that whatever grace they enjoy upon earth, it is nothing in comparison of the happiness I have in reversion for them in my eternal kingdom; expect not therefore, that perfection and complete felicity in a world of sin and misery which I intend to bestow upon thee in a brighter and better world. Thy blessedness in this life stands not in a full enjoyment of that which thou wouldest have, but in an hungering and thirsting for it. If I had pronounced those only blessed who are now satisfied with my righteousness and experiencing the fulness of joy, in my more immediate presence, thy wants, thy hindrances, and thy distresses might most justly have discouraged thee; but I have called those *blessed already* who hunger and thirst after divine realities. [Matt. v. 6.] If therefore thou dost follow after sanctification, and art weary of the vanities of the world, and especially of the services of sin—if thou hadst renounced thy own righteousness and art cleaving to me with full purpose of heart—if thou dost seek comfort from my word, and makest use of all the other means of grace which I have appointed, and yet canst not rise to the summit of thy wishes, do not ‘despise the day of small things,’ but doubt not that I who have given thee a spark of grace intendest to fan it into a heavenly flame. Do remember I have promised to fulfil the desires of those who fear me, and to be found of them who seek me with all their hearts. [Ps. cxiv. 19.—Deut. iv. 29.—Ps. ix. 10.—Ps. lxxix. 32.—Heb. xi. 6.—Ps. lxxxv. 9.] If it grieve thee that thou canst not pray at all times alike, recollect my children are often bad judges of themselves, and their state is not always to be measured according to their feelings; for many prayers may be made in them to me by my Spirit, with sighings and groanings only, which they themselves are not able to express, [Rom. viii. 26,] yet are known to me the same as though they were uttered with audible voices, and which I cannot but answer, yet the answers must come in my time, and in my way; so, though the blessing is delayed, thou art commanded to wait. [Hab. ii. 3.]

THE SOUL.

O Lord! make me content with all thy dispensations, and may I have faith to believe that all my spiritual wants and desires will be abundantly satisfied by thee in thine own time. May I ever remember how careful thou wast in the days of thy flesh to supply the temporal wants of those who followed thee: thou didst say, ‘Thou hadst compassion on them, because they had continued with thee already three days, and had nothing to eat; thou wouldest not let them depart fasting lest they should faint by the way.’ [Mark viii. 1 to 9.] O, how encouraging are these words! They sought not from thee yet thou wert careful to supply them. As thou wast so careful to supply their bodily necessities, surely thou wilt not neglect the spiritual wants of thine own children! The multitude followed thee three days, and thou didst think it a long time, and fearedst lest they should