

is the Sword of the Spirit. With that he slays all that needs slaying. It has in it a principle of life ("quick and powerful.") When I am sick, I send for a Physician. I get the benefit of his skill and experience, not in the abstract—not in wise, learned and exhaustive disquisitions on my malady—but in the *concrete*, by the grain, in powders; or by the dram, in healing lotions. He never comes without his medicines. So the Holy Spirit never comes without his remedies. His medicine is the written word. It may be quoted in sermon, or recollected from a mother's teachings; but it is all referable back to the word of Scripture. I think in every case of genuine conversion I ever saw, the person healed knew just what medicine had healed him—always some statement of God's word thus made effectual. Our experience will be much the same as others. We are not exceptional sinners—but of a very common and unromantic kind; and the sword that smites us down, and the balm that binds up our wound, will both be drawn from the Word of God.

WHAT CAN I SAY TO GOD?—When you want to make your peace with God, what have you to say to him about your past sins? "O," says one, "I tell him I am sorry, very sorry, and ask him to forgive me." But that is not enough! There is no *satisfaction* given there. If a thief stole your horse last night, and came back to-day, telling you how sorry he was, you would first know whether he had brought back the horse, before you would forgive him! And you would be right. There must be *satisfaction*! Your sorrow can never offer it. Well then, will you promise "never to sin again?" Beware of making promises that will not and cannot be kept! But, admitting the promise were kept, what becomes of your former sins? How are *they* accounted for? Now, if neither contrition for the past, nor the most perfect promises for the future, can be accepted by God as satisfaction, what can you say to him? Your pleas are all exhausted. Your spiritual treasury is empty! You have one plea yet—but it is not of yourself—it is Christ's gift—"Lord, my Saviour *died* for me!" That is your only answer. Till you use it, having thrown away every other plea, you cannot be saved.

GUILTY OF ALL.—How easy for us to think that *some* of God's Commandments we have not broken! And how easy, from God's Word, to be convicted of having broken every one of them! They are often taken by the Psalmist and by Paul, as a whole; and a violation of any part is a violation of all. And in another sense, and taking each commandment separately, we are guilty of breaking all; for God looks into the heart, and frowns upon the half-formed intention and the longing wish, that belong to sin. Anger is reached by the command, "Thou shalt not kill," and giving a wrong impression is included in bearing "false witness against our neighbours." It is only a vain waste of breath to try to exculpate ourselves. Lord, we have broken all thy laws; and only thy Son's blood can save us!

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