

Waiting to Hear God's Voice.

GOD sometimes spoke to Moses, who told the people God's will. One day, God said He would speak from the top of a mountain,—that the people should hear His voice; but they must not go near. On the third morning, the people stood looking on the mountain. On it there were thunders and lightnings, a thick cloud, and the loud voice of a trumpet. The people trembled; the mountain itself shook.

God's voice was heard calling to Moses to go "up to the top of the mount"—into the smoke and cloud, near to the fire and lightnings. Moses went up. And what words did God speak? What we call the *Ten Commandments*, showing what is our duty to God and to one another. These commands may be put in a very few words

—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and thy neighbour as thyself." We are to have no other God—no image of God. There must be no taking of God's name in vain—no breaking the Sabbath day which God had appointed—no disobedience to father or mother or those set over us—no hurting others by word or deed—no evil thoughts or desires.

If we obey these laws, we shall love God and love one another—and shall be happy.



The Two Bears.

HAVE you ever heard, children, of "the two bears?" We ought all to know about them from our earliest days, for they are so much connected with our happiness in dealing with those about us. If we keep the bears at home, home will be bright and happy. If we take them abroad, they will free us from many a trouble. They are both of the same nature, but there is a little difference in their names. The one is "Bear," the other "Forbear." Let us think about each of them—

1. *What may we learn about "bear?"* It has two different meanings. (1.) *Support or carry.* "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Thus it teaches us to follow the example of Christ in supporting our fellows in their troubles.

What a burden he bore! And how many cares and trials those about us have to bear! Can we not help? (2.) *Put up with.* St. Paul says, "Would to God ye could bear with me!" This is merely asking for the exercise of patience. We know the example Christ set us in this respect: 1 Pet. 2: 20, 21. And what calls there are for it in us through all the tempers and annoyances about us: Eph. 4: 31, 32. The whole lesson from this little word is summed up thus by Paul, "Support the weak: be patient toward all men": 1 Thess. 5: 14.

2. *What are we taught about "forbear?"* We may take it as meaning *abstaining from vengeance.* And thus it is used in reference to God's dealings with sinners: Rom. 2: 4; 3: 25; but it strictly means *abstaining from anything*: 1 Cor. 9: 6; and so "the servant of the Lord must be *forbearing.*" We must

be slow to resent injuries. A spirit of revenge is not Christian. It comes from a spiteful heart. We must keep from all that is contrary to the spirit of Christ: angry words, corrupt words, every appearance of evil. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any": Col. 3: 13.

Perhaps, while we have been speaking, some of your hearts have

said, "This word speaks to me." I hope this has been the case. We all of us need to have more of the mind of Christ: Phil. 2: 5.

"Love is more than mere appearance,
Let us learn to love indeed;
Patience, kindness and forbearance
Well become our state and need."

Contentment.

"Be content with such things as ye have."—Heb. 13: 5.

WHAT does "content" mean? It means that a little child should be happy with what it has, and not be greedy in seeking things it has not got, saying—"I wish I had that box of bricks, or that nice humming-top; or that I were bigger, or grander or had that fine house to live in." The little glow-worm does not say, "I want to be a star;" or the flower "I want to be a tree;" or the gnat, "I want to be a butterfly" No; they are "content."