

God, and pleaded them on their behalf? "We know that if we ask anything according to Thy will, Thou hearest us; and is it not Thy will that these children should be saved?" In the spirit of holy Jacob, have we ever cried, "We cannot let Thee go till Thou hast blessed them;" until the Spirit be poured upon them from on high; till one shall say, "I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob?" Have we knelt before our Saviour, and one by one brought our little ones to Him? "Didst Thou not say of old, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me;' and wilt Thou turn these away? If this spirit of believing, fervent prayer were ours, would it not prevail? Surely the ear of God would hearken to us, the arm of the Lord would be stretched forth to save; our children would be made willing in the day of His power; young converts would arise in our schools, numerous and beautiful as the dewdrops of the morning; reflecting as those dewdrops, the colours of the natural sun, the brightness of the Sun of righteousness, in their Redeemer's praise.

Then, as to our instructions. Do we believe that Christ, by shedding His blood, has opened a way whereby our children may be saved; and that, sinful as they are, they are welcome to this Saviour, yea, commanded to go to Him, to believe and live? With affection and earnestness, have we pressed home this truth upon their hearts? Do they see by our voice and manner that we feel what we say? Do we urge them to "flee from the wrath to come," as we would entreat them to escape for their lives from their house in flames?

Have we expected their conversion; or would it not actually have surprised us to see the swelling tear, and hear the inquiry, "What must I do to be saved?" escape from the burdened heart?

Is our great aim to bring the truth of God fully and clearly before them? and to this end do we conscientiously and diligently employ the fleeting, precious hours of Sabbath time? Do we in the week think and pray over the lessons, so that we may have a store of truth, which we ourselves understand and feel, to bring before our classes. Do we endeavour from the passing events of daily life, to gather simple illustrations of Scripture truth, and present that truth in the shortest, easiest words that we can find? Do we herein feel our entire dependence on "the Spirit of grace," remembering that the seed will never grow without the rain of heaven?

What do we know of the children individually? Have we sought by gentleness—gentleness even in reproof—to win their confidence and love? Have we ever taken them alone, prayed with them, and tenderly inquired, "Are you, or are you not, a child of God?" Do we visit them at home; know their family circumstances; at once inquire for them, if absent; in every way lead them to regard us as their friends?

These are our duties to our classes.

Conscience must say how they have been fulfilled.

Time rushes on, and sweeps our children from us in its downward course: a little while they are within our call, then hurried past us to the busy scenes of life, or drifted away into eternity. Children have left us never to return, whose ungodly lives may even now be records of our unfaithfulness. Does it not become us to fall low in humiliation before God? Opportunities lost, hours misimproved, rise up to memory, and would overwhelm us, but that we know that "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." And here, it may be well to make a more personal enquiry. What is the state of