

others. This is an example, not to angels, but to men; and only to those amongst men who, like ourselves, have been redeemed and delivered from the fear of death, and to us only, while we are still in these mortal bodies.

We are tempted sometimes to look on these mortal bodies of ours as encumbrances, necessary perhaps for our trial and probation, but to be given up readily, and even with gladness and rejoicing, when God gives the word that calls us from this mortal life. It will be more profitable for us to consider the blessing and advantage that we possess in having these mortal bodies, liable as they are to accident, disease and death, and all the ills that flesh is heir to, and subject to base and degrading temptations and sins. See the use that Jesus made of His sacred body, while He lived here on earth among men; and see also that the possession of a mortal body made it possible for Him, and therefore makes it possible for us also, to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others, and even to reach to that highest form of sacrifice wherein Jesus is the only perfect example—the laying down our lives for the brethren. Have we not here an advantage over the angels, an advantage over even the departed saints, over those who are at rest in that blissful place, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest"?

When we feel the burden of the flesh heavy upon us, then is the time for us to look upon our life here, not with the tear-dimmed eye of this world, but with the keen insight into the loving purposes of God, as revealed in His dear Son, which belongs to those who have been redeemed, and have been gifted with the Holy Spirit of truth. Who can know the fellowship of His sufferings but those who, like ourselves, are capable of sharing those sufferings? Who can fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ for His Body's sake, which is the Church, but those who are still members of the Church militant here on earth? Who can show forth the power of the grace of God but those who only through that grace are day by day kept from falling? Who can fight the Lord's battle and win fresh victories for Him, like those, who having pledged themselves to be Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto their lives' end, are still in the open field drawn up in battle array against the enemy?

How true it is that the appearance of things depends upon the aspect from which we regard them! How specially true it is with regards to the trials and difficulties of our life here. To the man whose heart is not touched by the fire of the love of God, the sorrows of life are at best endurable, endurable only because incurable by anything the man himself can do; but to those whose hearts are warmed by the fire of Love Divine each sorrow is a fresh link that binds them to the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief; each trial is for the proving and strengthening of a faith which, being more precious than gold or silver, shall be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; each difficulty becomes an occasion for the exercise of more faith; each temptation