

acknowledges it, he is called presumptuous. Is not this inconsistent?

In both cases it is simply the testimony of God's word. Only believe that testimony, and you have eternal life. Remember, however, this is no mere head knowledge. Thousands there are all around you who have this intellectual belief, and are still unbelievers. "The devils believe and tremble," and their intellectual belief makes them no better. It is the work of the Spirit of God—of Him only. He goes before the Lord in every case of real conversion to God, to prepare His way. He first makes a heart dissatisfied with itself. He creates a desire to come to Jesus, to believe in Jesus, to pray to Him, and to strive after salvation. Then He makes the heart dissatisfied with its coming, its believing, its praying, and its striving, until it sees no goodness in any of these things. Thus does the Spirit of God take from under the soul every prop on which it would lean. Then He presents Jesus to it—His finished work for it, His righteousness to cover it, His love to preserve it to the end; and all this without anything in the sinner to merit. Thus, by turning the eye away from itself to Jesus, does He bring peace to the soul. And the first words as well as the last, which the Spirit of God utters to that soul, the echo of which is to ring in its ears forever, are, "Look off from yourself unto Jesus—Jesus only."

Reader have you received Him? (John i. 12-13). If so you are a son of God, and if a son, an heir. Surely, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.