
SOUL RESTORATION.

may press you on every side, but when you are brought by grace divine into a realization of your sinfulness, when convictions of unfaithfulness flash in upon the soul, you are and must be absolutely alone. Your body may come in contact with its kindred flesh, but you are in the wilderness. It is only in such a scene and with such surroundings that our inconstant hearts can learn the inner meaning of the Christian life. It is only when thus alone with our great Lord that we learn to despise frivolities and sins and yearn for succor in His unchanging love. Soul restoration can never be rejoiced in without the wilderness experience. "I will allure," etc.

3. *The Wilderness is Suggestive of Terror.*

Not merely such as is incident to solitude or uninhabited wildness. The Sinaic Mount is here with its lightning and its smoke. The flaming law which has been broken here lifts up its awful voice of condemnation. The guilty soul with trembling and dismay looks up into the frowning blackness and the lurid smoke in which the divine displeasure against sin is written. Yes, Sinai is in the wilderness. The horrors of a guilty conscience scathed with the lightning flashes of a broken law must be experienced before a wilful and disobedient prodigal can be restored to the conscious assurance of His Father's love. Sin must be felt in its awfulness and guilt before it can be forgiven. Sinai must frown before Calvary can smile. "I