

See how *positive* the promise is: "I *will* bless thee." When God speaks He speaks like a God. With Him "there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." He is "the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." He says: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

"Thy promises, how firm they be,
How firm our hope and comfort stands!"

Here is solid ground to rest upon. There may be change and decay everywhere else, but here is an arm that never fails, and a heart that never changes: and He, knowing thy disappointments and heart-sickness, says this morning: "I *will* bless thee." Darkness may be about thee, and thorns and briers may beset thy path, and thy cup be bitter. Thou mayest even now be saying: "Show me wherefore Thou contendest with me." Look up! He has not forgotten to be gracious—

"Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face."

He will make all things work together for thy good. He will transmute curses into blessings. He loves thee with everlasting love, therefore grasp in faith His glorious promise: "I *will* bless thee."

See how *precious* the promise is! precious for each of the reasons I have named; but having a special preciousness in itself. The other words are but steps to the throne. Let us now look at the throne itself. The life, the soul of the promise, is in the word "bless." The other words derive all their preciousness from this. If this word had not been here, the other words might have but intensified our terror; but here it is in its fulness of glory; and I want you to walk in the light thereof.

"I *will* bless thee." What does "bless" mean? I cannot