

least allowance of evil, or of defilement contracted, interrupts. The Lord uses the simplest things of every day life to teach lessons by. In those countries where they wore sandals, however clean the individual might otherwise be, the dust was very apt to settle on the feet as they walked about. So we, in this sin-defiled world, are very apt (through lack of dependence and watchfulness) to contract defilement, and this interrupts communion. In ver. 10 the first "washed" is rather "bathed" or "washed all over" and corresponds to the action of the word when we are "born of water" (symbol of the word, Ps. cxix. 9; John xv. 3; Ephes. v. 26; cf. 1 Pet. i. 23, 25) "and of the Spirit," and of which there can be no repetition, for "He that is washed needeth not save to wash (a different word, and used more particularly with reference to the feet and hands) his feet, but is clean every whit."

"Clean every whit;" Thou saidst it, Lord;
Shall one suspicion lurk?

Thine, surely, is a faithful word,
And Thine a finished work.

How often, though, dear fellow-believer, have you and I, since we have been the Lord's, lacked watchfulness and failed in dependence, and done or said something naughty. Perhaps, too, we have gone on our way and forgotten, or tried to forget, about it; or, what is still worse, made an excuse for it. But in spite of all our efforts to do so, it has kept coming before us again and again, till at