

and to love the same things. At the time of their marriage some may have doubted if they would agree or be happy. Mutual affection hid each life in the other, and one has only to look at their faces at times to see the inner resemblances of the heart. Our Maker is our Husband, and those who hide in Him become like Him. His love and patience, His purity and strength daily mould us. We need to go out to meditate at eventide like Isaac, and to sit under the fig tree like Nathaniel. The best grapes ripen in the shade of their leafy house, hidden from the world. "Come ye apart and rest awhile," is our Lord's direction. Meyer pleads for a "parenthesis of silence." We need time to think at the window opened toward Jerusalem. Our faith is strong, our love is fervent, and our joy is full when we keep near to Christ. Too often have we proved that to follow afar off like Peter is to repeat his sin in the courtyard. The earliest type of piety was called walking with God. No two walk together except they be agreed. When Enoch and Noah walked with God their thoughts and affections marched with His with even pace. Their goal in life was His. It was no longer they who lived, but God who dwelt in them.

The Christian is not to be a recluse. He has a work to do in the world. We follow Christ, and not the Baptist dwelling in the wilderness. There is no need of hermit life to-day. At the same time, we must remember that the Church was saved in the dark ages by retreating to monasteries and community-houses. We do not forget the saints hidden in the Catacombs. There were seven thousand faithful men of whom even Elijah was ignorant. The life of the Church is often like a stream which, finding too many obstructions on the surface, cuts an underground channel for itself, and reappears after a time more than conqueror.

What the Church has done the individual must do. Keeping in mind his duty to the world, he must hide in God as the best means to the end. The Christian is like a "tree planted by rivers of waters." The tree is an example to all, as it sturdily resists the blasts and blesses the world with beauty of form and color, and with nourishing fruit. And yet, what would the tree be without its roots hidden deep in the fertile earth? They furnish it with strength and beauty and also protect the life sap during the winter. Let us seek to realize in our lives the strength and beauty of the Tree of Righteousness, knowing that we must be rooted in love and hidden with Christ in love.

### III.—THE SATISFACTION OF THE HIDDEN LIFE.

Abiding in Christ is joy fulfilled. His love to us is tender. He loves like as a father pitieth his children. Dr. Whyte points out that Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah. When he held his child in