

God? Is Christ manifested to my soul? or, Is there anything in your soul, in your ways, that hinders His manifesting Himself to you? "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you." He comes to be with you spiritually, that you may enjoy His presence. Are you walking in such a way that you are enjoying His presence? Would the effect of His presence be to bring to light something in my soul that hinders the joy, or simply to enjoy the blessedness of it? Have we that character of obedience—the power of Christ's word—in our habits, ways, our dress, our houses, so that if Christ comes in we have only to sit down and enjoy Him? It is a very solemn question, if our hearts are not dulled to His love, whether our doings or our state are a hindrance to our enjoyment of Christ. Strength is wanting, of course, and discernment, to do His will; but these manifestations give a sense of the interest He has in us; and it is that by which all the things of this world—things that were all gain to us—are dung and dross, by the sense we get of what Christ is, and His blessedness. They have more than lost their power, they are offensive to the Spirit—*it is not Christ.*

The manifestation of Christ gives the consciousness too of what we shall have for ever. If Christ was everything to the disciples, and they felt they could not do without Him, what comfort they got from, "I will come to you"! The thing is, we get accustomed to live without Christ.