

prudent process kept the minister from any rash extravagance, and also kept him in pleasant expectation of good things to come. In like manner, our Heavenly Father sends converting grace with the assurance that sustaining grace is to follow. If He calls us to a labor that is hard or a duty that is difficult, He promises to bestow strength equal to the day. So it will be until the dying hour; and then there will be infinitely "more to follow"—even the exceeding and eternal weight of glory. And all this supply comes to us "by Christ Jesus." It is on account of the merits and the mediation of the Redeemer that all these rich blessings are guaranteed to the believer, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?"

This promise is a casket of heavenly jewels. The believer who has locked it up in his or her heart should never have an ague of disquietude. It covers the whole range of actual necessities. Our deepest need, after all, is to be delivered from vain, wicked desires, and to covet only the best gifts. The curse of life is to hanker for what we ought not to have. But when our desires are purified, and we only long for those things which are for our eternal good, oh! in what a glorious way God loves to supply all our need! Do we need forgiveness? He delighteth in mercy and is just to forgive us our sins. Do we need purification from guilt? The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all iniquity. Do we need guidance? His word is a lamp unto our feet, and where our Bibles do not meet the case his providence often opens the pathway. "Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness." A young friend of mine, who had long been hungering to preach the Gospel, has had his way into the ministry cleared before him with as distinct an interposition of the Divine Hand as was the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes to the hungry multitude.

Do we need strength to resist temptation? He is able to succor those who are tempted. Do we need a "hope of glory"? Christ is formed in us. Do we need the preparation for Heaven? He maketh us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. No child at our tables can need daily bread more than we need the Holy Spirit. I open God's Promise-book and read that if earthly parents are willing to give bread to their children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give his Spirit to them that ask him.

God's way of giving is a glorious way, in that He so often grants us more than we pray for. Like the man who rapped at the door at midnight for "three loaves" and received "as many as he needed," we go away often laden with a sense of God's liberality. Solomon simply asked for a "wise and understanding heart"; but God was so pleased with the request that he gave him, in addition "riches and honor." The Syrophenician mother only begged for the healing of her daughter. Christ kept her at arm's length until he had tested her faith; and then gave her not only the boon she asked, but also his priceless commendation: "Great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt!" She really got Christ himself. This is the highest achievement of prayer, to win for ourselves the very God of our life.

Some earnest Christians wonder why they do not have their needs