

do not only meditate upon the promise, but seek in thy soul to realize it as being the very word of God. Say to thy soul then: "If I were dealing with a man's promise I should look most carefully at the man who covenanted with me. If I had a bond or note of hand, I should estimate most carefully the credibility, the respectability, and solvency of the man whose name was endorsed thereon. So with the promise of God: my eye must not be so much fixed upon the greatness of the mercy—that may stagger me; as upon the greatness of the promiser—that will cheer me. My soul, it is God, even thy God, God that cannot lie who speaks to thee. This word of his which thou art now considering is as true as his own existence. He is a God unchangeable, and therefore this promise has not been revoked. He has not altered the thing which has gone out of his mouth, nor called back one single consolatory sentence. Nor doth he lack any power; it is the God that made the heavens and the earth, who hath spoken to me and said, "Thus and thus will I do." Nor will he, nor can he, fail in wisdom as to the time when he will bestow the favors, for he knoweth when best to give and when better to withhold. Therefore, seeing that it is the word of a God so true, so immutable, so powerful, so wise, I will and must believe the promise. See, my brethren, you have already arrived at the faith which obtains the promise. I think we ought to be ashamed of ourselves, every one of us, that we dared to doubt God. Thinking this over the other day a horror of great darkness fell upon my soul, while I mourned that ever I should have been guilty of the infamous blasphemy of doubting God. To doubt an honest man is to cast a slur upon him; but to doubt God who cannot lie; to doubt God who by an oath has sworn—what is this but to make God a liar, or even a perjurer! Our soul shrinks back from infamy so accursed. Did ever fiend in hell commit a more detestable iniquity than that of doubting the veracity of a God of perfection and truth? Come, soul, there is the promise; there it stands before thee. Thou sayest, "I dare not believe it!" but I say, "How darcest thou doubt it? where didst thou get thy arrogance from? how canst thou speak so exceeding proudly as thus to think of God and say-of

him, that he has promised what he cannot or what he will not perform?" Lay much to heart, then, young christian, the fact that the promise, is the very word of God, and surely thou wilt not find it hard to believe, and so to obtain the promise.

3. Then, in the third place, be sure that thou doest, in the power of the Spirit of God, what the precept annexed to the promise asks of thee. Follow the example of Moses. Moses knew that there was a promise given to the people of Israel, that they should be the world's blessing; but in order to obtain it, it was necessary that Moses should practise self-denial. What did he? He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, counting it better to suffer the reproach of Christ than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season. If the promise commands thee to deny thyself, thou canst not obtain it without doing so. Do it, and thou hast obtained it. Or, suppose that the promise requires at thy hand courage—use courage. David felt he had a promise from God that he would keep him. He knew that in his past experience God had been faithful. "Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them." He advanced to the conflict and the Lord was his deliverer. Go thou forth with thy sling and thy stone, for thou wilt never obtain the promise if thou art afraid to face thy gigantic foe. Or does the promise require obedience at thy hand! Be obedient. Remember how Rahab, the harlot, hung out from her window the scarlet line, because that was the test of her faith. So do thou. Whatsoever Christ hath said unto thee do it. Neglect no command, however trivial it may seem.—What if it be non-essential! what hast thou to do with that? Do what thy Master tells thee, asking no questions for he is an ill servant who questions his Lord's commands. Doubtless, thou too, like the Ethiopian eunuch, shalt go on thy way rejoicing when thou hast been obedient. Or is the promise made to those who bear a good report of the land? Remember who Caleb and Joshua were, the only two who obtained the promise out of all the host that came out of Egypt, because they alone, "faithful among the faithless found," honored God, and would not dare to distrust him. So do thou hence God. Let