

Though small for my age, and by no means strong, I at once obtained employment in the tannery connected with the Single Brethren's house. I was much pleased with my abode here; and as I was active and attentive to my duties, I was liked by those with whom I had to do. However, it was eventually decided that I should not remain at Herrnhut. Since then, I have become convinced that this was good for me, as it led to my learning a trade, which was more useful in the service for which our Saviour destined me, than that of a tanner would have been.

On the 14th of September, 1787, I arrived at Gnadenfrey, where I was apprenticed to the wheelwright's business. On the 13th of January, in the following year, I was received into the congregation; and, on the 13th of August, partook of the Lord's Supper, for the first time, with the congregation, on which occasion, I felt the peace of God in my heart.

At the commencement of my residence at Gnadenfrey, I had much to suffer. My parents had always admonished me to speak the truth, and confess any fault or mistake I might have committed. At Herrnhut I did this, and thereby gained the esteem of my master, who was a very amiable man. But my master at Gnadenfrey, who was naturally surly and rude, did not understand this conduct, but attributed it to stupidity, and treated me very roughly. So disheartened did I become, that I was on the point of running away; however, I mentioned my troubles to Br. Gammern, the warden, who encouraged me to persevere; and soon afterwards, I had the pleasure to perceive a great change in the behaviour of my master towards me.

In 1789, I had an attack of fever, and became so ill, that my recovery was despaired of. Now, although I had gone with the congregation to the table of the Lord, and was looked on as a good Christian, I had not the assurance of my salvation, and was therefore overwhelmed with the fear of death. I mentioned this to one of the ministers, who directed me to Jesus, with all my sin and misery, and endeavoured to infuse into my mind a feeling of confidence towards Him. Nor did the merciful and faithful High-priest refuse to help me, but speedily gave me comfort, and filled my troubled heart with His peace, so that the fear of death disappeared. After my recovery, my taste for the pleasures of youth revived, and my state of comfort was exchanged for one of levity; this I have since learned to look upon, as my own most dangerous enemy, and as one of the snares with which Satan seeks to entrap and destroy the young. Some time passed in a state of lukewarmness; I took delight in foolish talking and jesting, and became daily more dead, and more indifferent towards our Saviour.

At length, on a certain occasion, I was led by the Holy Spirit to reflect on my spiritual state, and soon became convinced that I was in the way leading to destruction. Carnal reason strove to convince me that I was aiming at too much, that there was nothing wrong in the habits I had formed, &c. But all this gave me no comfort, while the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit called on me continually to return from my evil way, to seek earnestly to become a child of grace, and to obtain assurance of my salvation, through the blood and wounds of Jesus. But I had a dread of bearing the reproach of Christ; which