

and thus rendered able to believe unto salvation.

Look to the Lord for inclination and ability to believe the gospel, on the ground of his own gracious word, and come directly to Christ for life, *in dependence on the divine strength*. Enough is said in the scriptures, of human depravity, to humble awakened sinners; but enough is also said to encourage them to receive the Lord Jesus, and draw near unto the Father through him. He who exalted his Son to reign over the Gentiles, said, "In him shall the Gentiles trust." Before Jesus ascended to his glory, he promised to send down his Holy Spirit to convince the world, and render his gospel effectual. If you desire to embrace the gospel, you have abundant reason to expect the divine assistance; therefore while you attempt to believe in Jesus, imitate that afflicted parent, who, instead of yielding to despondency, cried out with tears, "Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief."

Beware of misapplying the doctrine of divine influence, by neglecting to believe in Christ till you feel the distinct operation of his Spirit enabling you so to do; or of neglecting to comply with the gospel call, on pretence of allowing God to accomplish his own work by implanting the grace of faith. God bestows the gift of faith by imperceptibly enabling men to consider and embrace his word as rational creatures. Therefore do not look for any sudden sensible impulse of divine grace, as seamen wait for the flowing of the tide before they attempt to leave their harbour, neither suppose it necessary that you should in all cases be able to distinguish between the