

Be not dismayed if you should find a violent struggle, when our Lord is coming by his Spirit to deliver you from the destroying power of Satan. But encourage yourselves to seek the Lord more earnestly that he would rebuke the tempter, and not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able to bear. Do not listen to the suggestions of this evil one; but look to Jesus to execute judgment upon him. If he tempt you to hurt your bodies, hearken to that word, Do thyself no harm. Or if he should tempt you to destroy your souls by presumption or despair, reject his evil motions with abhorrence, and labor to cherish the motions of the good Spirit of God in opposition to him. Be not afraid to worship God in secret, lest he should appear to you; but consider, our Saviour holds him as in a chain, and can control him at his pleasure. Say to the Lord, Rule thou over us, and let this usurper be cast out of our hearts. And pray to God to subdue every lust, that there may be none retained whereby the devil shall keep possession of your souls.

There are two kingdoms which divide the whole world, the kingdom of God's dear Son, and the kingdom of darkness. And we must belong to the one, or the other. Here none may presume that they can stand neuter. If you refuse to stand on Christ's side, you must expect to be treated as enemies to him. Here then, I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. If you continue under the power of Satan, you must finally perish with him in hell. But if you now submit to Christ, you shall obtain the blessings of the kingdom of grace, and in due time be advanced to the kingdom of glory, where there is neither adversary, nor evil occurrent. Be persuaded then to stand on this side, and you will have the best cause, the best leader, and certain victory in God's time; the reward of which is not a fading laurel, but a crown of glory which fadeth not away.

And here give me leave to direct the exhortation,

To Children. Submit to Christ, and list under his banner. Dear children, your tender years need not discourage you from engaging in this war; for our Lord ordains strength out of the mouth of babes, that he may still the enemy and the avenger. The power and grace of our Saviour are magnified, while he perfecteth praise out of your mouths, and makes you victorious over the sinful follies and vanities of childhood.

To young men. Do you also submit to Christ, and list under his banner. Obey that word, Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. ii. 1. Flee youthful lusts which war against the soul; and while you strive for the mastery, be temperate in all things. When Satan tempts you to walk in the ways of your heart, and after the sight of your eyes, realize that for these things God will bring you into judgment, and then say, How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God? How shall I be able to lift up my head, when I must appear before the judgment seat of Christ? Thus resist the devil, and he shall flee from you. O, how lovely a sight is it, to behold our youth denying the solicitations of Satan, when he urgeth them to gratify their carnal appetites, in this age of pleasure! I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. 1 John ii. 14.

Little John and his Mother.

In the village of R—— lived a little boy whose name was John. His father died when little John was but six years old, and his mother was but very poor, so that she had to toil hard—very hard—to obtain even the cheapest food for herself and little John. But still she did not complain. Little John was so young that he could not help her much, but he was a good little boy—had resolved to make her the least trouble he could.