

We are put under grace, and its voice is always heard. It assures us, that, notwithstanding all our weakness, we have continued with Jesus, and that He gives the kingdom as the Father gave it to Him. If He says to His disciples, "I appoint unto you a kingdom, ye shall sit on thrones," &c., &c., He takes care to show them what the flesh is.

"Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." He does not say, "Thou shalt not be tempted; I will hinder Satan from sifting thee;" no, nor does He do it. We see here that God often leaves His children in the presence of their enemy, whom He does not destroy; but even while thus in the presence of the enemy, He watches over His own; as we see, (Rev. ii. 10), "The devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Peter might have said to the Lord, "Thou canst hinder me from being thus sifted," as Martha and Mary thought Jesus could have hindered the death of Lazarus: and, truly, He who can give the crown of life can shelter us; but He does not do so, that we may be tried. Satan desired to have Job that he might sift him like wheat, and God permitted him to do so; and this happens to us also. We often say within ourselves, "Why has He dealt thus with me? Why has He put me into such and