

troyed. For what is sympathy but fellow-feeling with other sufferers in their endurance? The Redeemed will love each other in Heaven because they have all "come out of great tribulation," and they love Christ in Heaven because the Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son to help them in their struggles, not to force them into salvation. They know they would never have reached that blessed shore without his constant aid, and yet there is a humble, healthful consciousness within each heart of having not done violence to these gentle breathings of goodness, of having made a vigorous and continued effort, of having cherished a life-long desire, of having struck out with both hands earnestly to reach the wished-for shore.

We know that even in lower things, in schools, or contests for earthly rewards, if prizes ten times more valuable were bestowed without an effort, they would be valueless in the eyes of those who received them. And what meaning would those noble words have to us, "who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God;" and again, "But we see Jesus for the sufferings of death, crowned with glory and honour;" if instead of bearing our cross after him, we were landed in Heaven without an effort, and had no need to raise an arm, or maintain a struggle to take us thither? So that the doctrine of irresistible grace is founded on a misconception of the whole nature of man, and of the reward proper to man's nature, and on a misinterpretation of all the passages of Scripture which describe the struggle and the success of man.

So, then, as the grace of the Holy Spirit is resistible, as that blessed Person may be resisted, grieved, vexed, quenched, and his light kindled or put out within us, we should see that we put forth all the powers and desires of our minds to meet that gentle motion, and to fall in with its first suggestions. Nor are we to look for his operation commonly, in a way implying violence, or sudden fiery impulses, that take the heart by storm, and leave no room for resistance. When the Holy Ghost first came down from Heaven, It was indeed "like a mighty wind, that shook the house" where the Apostles were assembled; for It was sent to give evidence to unbelievers of a power that could not be resisted, and to support weak and persecuted believers in the discharge of their high mission. But the miracle was never exactly repeated, not even in Apostolic times, and the gift of tongues has since been withdrawn. We know, from the history of Elijah, that not in the "great and strong wind which rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks," nor in the "earthquake," nor in the "fire," but in the "still small voice" of love, the Lord's presence was manifested. So it is not for man to assemble his fellows, and prescribe the manner of the Spirit's operation. Now it is to be seen and felt; in this way only; on those very benches, with those set expressions of