

the direct action of God in us by His Spirit. But there is also intelligence. "My reins also instruct me in the night seasons." The divine life is intelligent life. We can be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Thus, when removed from external influences, the secret workings and thoughts of the heart show what is suited to the path and way of God in the world. In Christ this was perfect, in us in the measure of our spirituality; but that to which the Christian has to give much heed, that he neglect not the holy suggestions and conclusions of the divinely-instructed life when freed from the influence of surrounding circumstances. It may seem folly, but if found in humbly waiting on God, will in the end prove His wisdom. And the controlling judgment of God's word which overrules the whole divine life is there to judge false pretensions. To this the divine life is always absolutely subject. Christ, who was this life, yea, was the Word and Wisdom, yet always wholly honoured the written word as the guidance and authority of God for man.

That guidance by the Lord is not quite all the practical process of the exercise of divine life. It looks entirely to the Lord. "*I have set (says Christ, walking as man on the earth,) Jehovah always before me.*" He kept Him *always* in view. How our hearts have to own that this is not always so! How withdrawn from all evil—how powerful morally in the midst of this world should we be