

When a man walks with a bad conscience, he is not much inclined to pray, and has not "confidence toward God" if he does. Paul says, "Pray for us, for we trust we have a *good conscience*, in all things willing to live *honestly*." Let us not ask prayers, if we do not seek to do what the answer to the will claim of us.—Now Elijah is right in the track where God wants him, there to give a message to Abaziah, and he not only gives his testimony clear and distinct—with "no uncertain sound," but withal a *pressing* message. He meets the messengers of the King, and directs them to tell him that he will *not* come off his bed again, but shall *surely die*." The King thinks he will soon settle that matter, and sends a captain and fifty men after the prophet. Elijah is on the mountain-top—his course is plain and open, because he fears God,—not man. The man who is walking with God does not need to hide behind a bush, neither does he need to look this way and that way as Moses once, or feign himself a madman, as David, but "trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God."

Elijah sits where everybody can see him,—not making a single effort to get away, for in the path of God's will he need not fear anything. Mark the calm, moral dignity of this restored, happy, fearless man! Here is an escort from the King to fetch him into his presence that he may learn that "the king's wrath is as messengers of death." (Prov. xvi. 14.) They came to order him there—a captain and his fifty, but Elijah has his orders from the King of Kings and will not go, and they are all consumed by fire from heaven. People may call these *hard lines*, but "Woe unto him that *striveth against his Maker!*" If we are not on God's side, by "repenting to give Him glory," then we must prove alas! that He cannot give His glory to another, and must be condemned to everlasting judgment, as a necessity of His holiness, by the very God that gave His Son to die for us. The same Bible that tells of the *love* of God, tells also of His righteous *judgment* upon all who receive not the truth in the love of it. No faithful servant of God can put the one before people and leave out the other. In these days of easy-going, men do not like to hear of the judgment of God which slumbers not, and that God has decreed that "*every* knee shall bow to Christ, and every tongue shall confess Him Lord to the glory of God the Father."

The second captain thinks he can startle Elijah by altering the message and adding a word, and says, "O man