

The great Favour God had shew'd that Nation, in making them his peculiar People, together with some imaginary Privileges they had conceiv'd to belong to them, as being of the Seed of *Abraham*; and the Expectation of a Messiah to come about that Time, and restore again the Kingdom to *Israel*, seem to have taken such Possession of their Minds, as to blind them against every Truth, wherein the rest of Mankind were to have an equal Share and Benefit with themselves. We find in particular, that they immediately began to cavil at the Words of the Text, answering, *We be Abraham's Seed, and never were in Bondage to any Man; How sayest thou, ye shall be made free?* And upon our Saviour's explaining his Meaning a little farther, "*That whosoever committeth Sin, is the Servant of Sin; That the Servant could have no Claim to the Inheritance; but the Son, and such as by receiving his Doctrine should be adopted into Cobeirship with him*:" And farther, *that if they were the Children of Abraham, they ought to shew it by doing the Works of their Father Abraham, by Faith and Obedience.* We find, I say, this was so far from removing their Prejudice, and opening their Eyes to the Truth, that they were rather the more enraged, contumeliously calling him a *Samaritan*, possessed with the Devil; and, at the Close of the Conference, took up Stones to cast at him, in order to destroy him. So great is the
Power