

your bed a pulpit, from which will constantly issue a sermon testifying to the sustaining, comforting power of divine grace. A godly woman, who was a widow and the mother of a family of little children, was asked in her sickness whether she was more desirous to live or die. She replied, "I have no choice in the matter, but refer myself to the will of God." "But," said the other, "suppose God should refer it to you, whether to live or die, which would you choose?" "If God," replied she, "should refer it to me, I would even refer it back again to Him." Here was true Christian patience, and such holy resignation made the bed of death happy and joyous. The 23rd Psalm was read to her. At the close of it she said, "Ah, that's an easy seat." "What do you mean by an easy seat?" was asked. "I mean," was the response, "that though I am dying poor and helpless, and my little children will be left without either father or mother in a very short time, yet I know that the Lord will provide for them, and that lets me sit easy."

It is only the child of God can thus testify. Anyone can be happy when his cup is full of delights; the believer alone has songs when waters of a bitter cup are wrung out to him. Any sparrow can chirp in the daylight; it is only the nightingale that can sing in the dark.

But how can we acquire patience? It is by "looking unto Jesus" (verse 2), or "considering him" (verse 3). Just as you first looked to Jesus for salvation, so now you must continue looking to Him for patience and every needed grace. That is the way of salvation. Jesus first, Jesus last, Jesus midst, Jesus all in all. We are to consider Him as the suffering Saviour, "enduring the cross and despising the shame" (verse 2). Consider His suffering, and how patiently He endured it all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb so He