

when you work, at home and at school, and all along by the way, then I fear you would not listen to the Saviour if you were really to see him, and he should speak to you.

The next time you begin to do something which you have been forbidden to do, stop and see if your little heart does not begin to beat, and feel very heavy, and then listen; and though you may not hear it quite so plain as Ellen thought she did, I am sure you have not yet disobeyed it so much that the voice will refuse to speak to you; and if you always heed what it says, you will not get so often punished, and will be saved a great deal of sorrow.

#### The Persecutor who became a Preacher.

I am going to tell you about Saul; he lived a great while ago at Jerusalem, though he was born at a place called Tarsus. He was brought up very well, and his parents gave him a very good education.

But he was an enemy to the Lord Jesus, and to all his servants, and he was very cruel, for he did them all the harm he could, and dragged a great many of them to prison and to death.

We should never hurt any one on account of their religion. If our own religion be right, it will teach us to do good, as we have opportunity, to all who are around us, to our friends, to strangers, and even to enemies.

Saul, however, thought and acted very differently; for he wished to kill all the disciples of the Saviour; and when many of them, to get out of his way, went from Jerusalem to Damascus, he went after them; he was madly bent on their destruction.

But as he was going there, all on a sudden, a light, brighter than that of the sun, at noon-day, shone from the heavens around him. He was so overpowered with its brightness, that he fell down on the ground, almost senseless.

And a voice from heaven addressed him,—it said, "Saul! Saul! why persecutest thou me?" And he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

And Saul, trembling, lest the Saviour should strike him dead, for his wickedness and cruelty, and astonished to hear his voice, said, "Lord! what wilt thou have me to do?" And Jesus said, "Arise! and stand on thy feet. I will send thee to the Gentiles, to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

And immediately he began to pray, and he became another man, even a good minister of Jesus Christ, and a zealous preacher of the everlasting Gospel. God's grace always makes a great and blessed change. We must all receive this grace, and become new creatures, or we can never enter into the kingdom of God.

And have I received this grace? If I have, God has given me a new heart. He has taken away the heart of stone, and given me a heart of flesh. He alone can do this; he did this for Saul.

O if I have received this grace, my heart and my mouth have been filled with praise,—and is it so?

Then I have been made sorry for my many sins,—I have confessed them, and asked mercy,—and strength to forsake them,—and have I done so?

Then I have fled to the Lord Jesus for life and salvation. Then I love him, and delight to think of him,—and to read his blessed history,—and I try to recollect his instructions, and I treasure them up in my memory and my heart,—I take him as my great example, and I am every day trying to become like him. And is this indeed the case?