

It soon became the common subject of conversation that such and such persons were converted, and others were under conviction for sin. 'My two eldest brothers professed to have met with a change, and my second sister was under conviction, and received some degree of comfort, but was not brought into gospel liberty until several years after.

My mother was much blessed, and enforced upon us with great fervency the necessity of regeneration, and that we must be born again or we never could enter into the kingdom of God. This doctrine seemed so mysterious to me, that I did not know what to think of it; but I paid great attention to all that I heard concerning it, and when I observed persons conversing upon religious subjects, I would draw close up behind them, as my interest and delight in hearing had become much increased—at the same time afraid lest any one should speak to me. O, how many blessings to mankind has this shameful timidity sacrificed!

I soon became fully confirmed in the truth of the doctrines above named, and felt an ardent desire that I might experience them to my own salvation.

Listening one day to a conversation of three of my brothers, the second of whom was urging upon the others a preparation for death, and exhorting them to seek the Lord with all their heart, I felt as I had never done before, and wished it might never leave me. I believe this was the first time I had experienced the drawings of God's Holy Spirit upon my heart. Many times I thought of it afterwards, with an anxious desire to enjoy it again. I indulged the hope that I should at no very distant period, enjoy the blessing of God, and become one of his child-