

cause he trusteth in thee." The more steadily the Christian pursues the path of God's commandments the greater is his peace. "Great peace have they that keep thy law, and nothing shall offend them:" "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments then had thy peace been like a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." While the Christian is walking in the narrow path, the peace of his soul, like the deep broad, placid river flows calmly and steadily on, and continually increases in depth and breadth. The Christian should cling to Jesus, and steadily walk in the right way that his peace may increase. The Christian must continually experience peace that he may have true blessedness of spirit, and see no necessity and feel no inclination to drink happiness from the polluted and polluting springs of this world's pleasures. Joy is a state of soul of the same character as peace, but higher. It is an intenser, livelier feeling. It is not permanent like peace, but it yields a greater blessedness while it lasts. We cannot be always experiencing joy. When we actually contemplate the safety we possess, the glory we expect, we are joyful, or in a state of exultation. The Christian, however, should always enjoy peace. He is in the enjoyment of peace, when he contemplates God as his God, Jesus as his Saviour, and heaven as his home. As he contemplates, his feelings rise, and he is experiencing the highest exultation before he is aware of it. This joy is the fruit of the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God pours the oil of gladness into the believer's heart. Christian, let the joys and triumphs of religion arise in your soul. These raise and elevate you, and render you far superior to the fading pleasures of time and sense, and even to the trials and discomforts of earth. Hope is the confident expectation of blessedness and glory in the future world, accompanied with a desire for it. That there may be hope there must be faith in God's Gospel, faith in the promise of God that he will bestow eternal life on all who believe the gospel—eternal life merited by Jesus. Hope renders the Christian patient in the midst of his trials: he knows they will soon be over. It elevates him for cherishing it; he is allied to saints and angels in bliss, and will soon be with them. It purifies him: for its object is the holy heaven. Then, Christian, cherish peace and joy and hope. Look to God in Christ as the fountain of your peace and joy: Christ's work as their channel, and hope for heaven as your home. This blessedness God has provided for us: and we may as well enjoy it as not: if we do enjoy it, we shall be kept nearer God, shall