

poor sufferer! The night may be long and dark, but the stars are out: look at them and rejoice; for there, in letters of living light, you may read the promise: "I will bless thee."

See how *personal* the promise is: "*I will bless thee*:" personal on God's side, and personal on thine. Do I hear you say, "But this is my difficulty. This promise was made to Abraham; what right have I to claim it as made to me? I have no more right to other people's promises than to other people's money." This is certainly true; and the enemy of our souls takes care that we do not forget it. Often when the Christian claims some much-needed promise he says: "That promise was made to Abraham, or David, or Paul, and not to you; you have no right to plead it." To escape from this paralysing suggestion, you must remember your character. You are a believer in Christ. I do not say that your faith is strong, it may be "weaker than the bruised reed;" but you are a believer; and our relationship to Christ does not depend on the strength of our faith, but upon its existence. A babe is as truly a son as a young man.

Let me ask you to look at the third chapter of the Epistle to the Galatians. In the sixteenth verse it is said: "Now to Abraham and *his seed* were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." In the fourteenth verse we are told that Christ redeemed us, "that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles;" and in the twenty-ninth verse it is said: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." "So then," says the apostle, in the ninth verse, "they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." We see, then, that the promises were not the private property of those to whom they were spoken—they were "to them, and to their children, and to all that were afar off, even to as many as