

into contact with, as the great tempter of humanity. The close of the struggle found Jesus more firmly resolved in relation to His great work and better prepared for it, His frame of mind being in full accord with the prophetic word, "The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together: who is mine adversary? Let him come near to me," Isa. l. 5-8.

We are confirmed in our conjecture as to the general but distinctive character of the forty days' temptation by the fact that such an experience is in full accordance with the universal experience of Christian believers; so that, in framing our conjecture, we are simply assuming that our Lord's temptation was *exemplary*. It is a universal experience that the bestowment of special spiritual endowment should be followed very soon, if not immediately, by temptation or spiritual conflict, in which all the endowment bestowed, or grace received, is needed to defeat the design of the great adversary. As Jesus, when He received the Spirit without measure, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil—not going into the wilderness with any such purpose or expectation, but finding, in point of fact, that all His endowments were needed to meet a violent and protracted assault of Satan, so the Christian believer, when he has been graciously favored with a spiritual experience of a special character, though he may not go in the way of temptation, but may, on the contrary, be watching diligently and praying earnestly lest he enter into temptation, will yet, in point of fact, have occasion, probably very soon, for the exercise of all his new-gotten endowment, in doing battle with special temptation. Let us say, however, in passing, that the more watchful and prayerful he is lest he should enter into temptation, the more likely he is to come through not only safe, but victorious.

Our position and prospects are not like those of our first parents before they fell, but like those of Christ when He entered on His public ministry. As Christian believers, followers of Christ, "we are in the world, as he was in the world." We are