

much or too often. We should "pray without ceasing." All our thinking, and studies, and preaching, and sermons should be steeped in prayer.

Of the second, that is persecution, we know little or nothing by experience and suffering. Perhaps no two men suffered more for persecution than Paul and Luther, and both seemed to regard it as necessary to their growth in grace and success in the ministry. They rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake. A little persecution would perhaps do us much good. It might tend to unite the scattered fragments of Protestant Christians, and sharpen them up, and make them more mindful and more thankful for their great privileges; privileges which were dearly purchased for us by the blood and sufferings of our forefathers, and which we are in duty bound to guard, and to leave intact for those who may come after us. We may, however, have persecution in other forms, quite as trying and more injurious to our spiritual life and usefulness. Let us then not be surprised if "fiery trials" come sometimes from quarters least expected, and much harder to bear than those which come from without. These "fiery trials" are often sent for good, and are needful, by way of discipline, for when His servants get proud, God often, in mercy, sends them trials, or what is worse, leaves them to walk in their own ways, for He never works with those who are proud in spirit. It is as true to-day as it ever was, that "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall," therefore we should strive not only to serve the Lord, but to serve Him "with all humility of mind." However great a man's learning and ability, he has nothing but what he has received, and why, therefore, should we be proud or vain! Humility is absolutely essential to success in the work of the ministry. St. Paul served the Lord with humility, tears, and temptations. I think tears are not so often seen or shed in the pulpit now as when I was young, or as in the days of Jesus and Paul. People would be surprised now to see a preacher shedding tears in the pulpit, some of his hearers would be likely to say that he was not a strong-minded man, for only women weep. "Tears" would be taken as a sign of intellectual weakness, when tears be an indication of mental weakness, then David was weak, Jeremiah was weak, and Jesus was weak, for they all wept and shed tears of sorrow, over the sins and impenitence of men. Would to God there were more preachers like them, more weeping prophets and preachers; men who feel more for the salvation of souls and the glory of Christ. We need more sympathy, more heart pathos and more tears in the pulpit, and then perhaps we might have less silly criticism and more love and sympathy from the pews. Humility, tears and "temptations,"—"tears and temptations." Our Lord was tempted and so was Paul,—sorely tempted; and we are taught to pray "lead us not into temptation." All