

its sweet perfume over your grave, and borne its fragrance thence to heaven at your resurrection. You might have beheld a multitude of shining spirits redeemed from sin, encircling the throne of light and glory, to whom you had been made a blessing.

You might thus have realised in your own person the fulfilment of the Divine promise, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Say, is not all this too much to lose? Listen again to the voice of God. Listen to it: "To-day, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart." This warning slighted may prove fatal, this call refused may leave you in sin and misery for ever.

THE WAY AND THE GUIDE.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with Mine eye."

Psalm xxxii. 8.

WHOSE voice is this which comes to us at the opening of every turn in the way, offering us not only the instruction we need, but the guidance of His eye and His presence? The future lies all dark and uncertain before us; we know not what a day may bring forth, much less another year; and we know full well, if we know anything of ourselves, that our own wisdom is not sufficient to guide us, nor our own strength to support us, during the future with all its possible events, now hidden from our eyes.

How needful for each of us, then, to realise what it is to have the Lord Himself on our side! He knows all, and appoints all for each of us; who but He can supply to each the guidance required? who but He can go along with us through all the way, strengthening, helping, instructing, and comforting His people? Let us be well assured of His willingness to do all this, the promise is large and free, and the Christian knows that in Jesus Christ "all the promises of God are yea, and in Him amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Therefore let us take courage for the future, not only from remembering His goodness in the past, but from a lively faith in His promises for the future; and, assured of His guidance, let us with humble and thankful hearts look up to Him continually, asking what He would have us to do, and seeking His blessing on all we undertake: "The meek will He guide in judgment, and the meek will He teach His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."

PRECEPT—PROMISE—PRAYER.

PRECEPT.—It is the Spirit that quickeneth. *John vi. 63.*

PROMISE.—Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. *Eph. iv. 30.*

PRAYER.—Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth: hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. *Psa. cxliii. 7.*



UPWARDS AND ONWARDS.

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" *Psalm xlii. 1, 2.*

UPWARDS, upwards to thy gladness,
Upwards to thy heavenly goal,
Bid farewell to all thy sadness,
Flee to Jesus, O my soul!
He is thy life;
He will give thee rest at last,
Shield thee here from time's rough blast
And this world's strife.

Onwards, onwards, ever nearer
To thy Jesus and thy home;
Quick ascending, ever clearer
Shall the heavenly light become.
God is thy tower;
Though beset with foes around,
Jesus will thy foes confound
With His great power.

Firmly, firmly now confiding
On thy Saviour, kind and true,
God thy footsteps ever guiding,
And His mercies ever new;
He will appear,
Helper in each time of need,
Strong Protector, Friend indeed,
Then never fear.

Enter, enter to the holiest,
Jesus has the way made plain,
There in attitude the lowliest,
Tell thy care and grief and pain.
God is thy Friend;
Though the world despise and blame,
Jesus' love remains the same,
Time without end.

Higher, higher, O my spirit!
Soar above the things of earth;
Think of thy Redeemer's merit,
Yield Him all that thou art worth.
He left His throne
To seek thee ruined, wretched, lost;
Thy ransom did His life-blood cost;
Thou art His own.

Upwards, upwards, look above thee,
Follow Christ within the veil,
Let not earthly trifles move thee,
Let not earthly thoughts prevail.
Time soon shall cease,
And earth decay; then heavenward press,
And Jesus shall for ever bless
With rest and peace. *Johann Casper Schade.*