

but, when viewed in immediate connexion with their attainment of the promises, two graces are peculiarly prominent, their *faith* and their *patience*.

The *faith* which animates the hearts of God's children, is a Divine principle, implanted and cherished there by the hand and power of God; and its immediate office is to receive as true, to confide in as certain, to credit with full reliance, whatever the Divine Being has revealed through the medium of his word and spirit. "Faith is the medium between the invisible truths which the Bible reveals, and the human soul the link between the testimony of God without us, and the mind of man to whom it is made. It is like the telescope to the natural eye, it brings near in their real magnitude and proportion, those objects of an invisible world, which reason could only dimly discern by its innate powers and the aid of tradition, or not discern at all."

This powerful and heaven-born principle is closely connected with our attainment of spiritual and eternal blessings.

It is so by *Divine appointment*, for God has been pleased by the terms of his Gospel, to tender these blessings to believers, and believers only, in all those cases where belief is possible. Thus to faith, we find is annexed the *remission of sin*. "To Him give all the Prophets witness that, through his name, whosoever *believeth* on him shall receive remission of sins."* To faith is annexed the privilege of *adoption*. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."† To faith is annexed our *spiritual illumination*. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."‡ To faith is annexed the commencement and progress of our *sanctification*.

* Acts 10. 43.

† John 1. 12.

‡ John 12. 46.