

His ensign has been unfurled, and to it multitudes from the nations have come, seeking His rest, and those who have entered into it have proved by experience that His rest is glorious.

Our Saviour foretold that it would be as a well of water, springing up in the life continuously—into everlasting life—"This He spake of the Spirit which they that believed on Him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified." But now Jesus has been glorified, and the *promise of the Father* has been given, so that this *glorious rest* is now the undoubted heritage of all believers in Christ.

Paul describes minutely this rest in the fourth of Hebrews, and distinctly teaches that it remains for the people of God—for us who are called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles. Elsewhere it is described—strange paradox—as simply indescribable: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him;" "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding," and "joy unspeakable and full of glory." Indeed, the whole Bible is permeated with the subject, as if its one labored effort was to direct attention to this glorious rest made possible to us by the death, resurrection and ascension of the Almighty Captain of our salvation. It is abounding in hope through the Holy Ghost; it is rejoicing evermore, and in everything giving thanks; it is taking joyfully the spoiling of goods, counting it all joy when fallen into divers temptations; it is glorying in infirmities that the power of Christ may rest on us; it is always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. It is everything of good one can conceive of, and vastly more, for it is the glorious rest which has been purchased for us by the costly price of the crucifixion of the only begotten Son of the God of the universe, and is as a gift worthy of the august Giver. His rest is *glorious*.

Reader, have you your blood-bought heritage, the glorious rest of faith? We ask you not, Have you this or that bless-

ing; but have you that glorious rest that pants to express itself, and ever finds language too impoverished for the purpose? We once heard a sister, taken to task by another for using extravagant language in giving her Christian experience, reply: "Why, bless you, it is impossible for me to be extravagant, for the strongest words language can utter don't express half that I experience of the blessedness of the rest of faith." If you have this glorious rest of faith, you will not hesitate to appropriate the grandest imagery used in the Bible, and the richest language on record, as but faintly portraying the glory in your being that excelleth. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." Thus freely are offered to all this glorious gift. Stay not to reason with yourself whether or no the experience you have been living in is the real thing or no, stoop and drink; nay, open your mouth wide, and He will fill it. Let the flowing tide of His fullness of blessing whelm you into the infinite ocean of His love. Rise now by simple faith to all the life of God, and prove for yourself that *His rest* is glorious beyond the power of human speech to tell.

EXPOSITION.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."
—James v. 14.

IS THIS A COMMAND OR A RECOMMENDATION?

Plainly, it is not on a par with the commands of the Decalogue. Take the command against stealing for example: now, the least act of theft, be it only in the hundredth part of a cent, breaks the command as positively as when thousands are involved. Not so in this case, for he would be an extreme teacher who would assert that every attack of sickness, however slight, and however inopportune the time, demands a minute observance of James' words. If then any exceptions are admitted—and who will affirm that there are none,—it is at