

the case, for too often the sinner follows the example of Ahaz, of whom it is written, in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord.

The mere trials of this world, will not of themselves drive a man to God, but will the rather hurry him into rebellion, despair, and hardness of heart. Man will look in all directions sooner than look to God. He will sooner, like Saul, seek the help of a witch, or a devil, than seek the living God.

It is written, "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help, and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many, and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord."

#### ADVICE TO THE YOUNG AND FICKLE MINDED.

"Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go, keep her, for she is thy life." If to take hold is good, to take fast hold is better, even a touch of the hem of Christ's garment causeth healing to come to us, but if we want the full riches, which are treasured up in Christ, we must not only touch but take hold, and if we would know from day to day, to the very uttermost, all the fulness of his grace, we must take fast hold, and so maintain a constant and close connection between our souls and the eternal fountain of life.

Christ, our example to win all. He moved as man among men, a friend among friends, a helper amongst all who needed help, declining every outward honour or flattery, or even the appearance of either. While advancing the most amazing pretensions as to His kingly prerogative, He was personally so meek and humble, that he could make His gentle humility a ground for the trust, and unembarrassed approach of all who were troubled. Content with obscurity, and leaving to others the struggle for distinction or place, He chose a life so humble, that the poorest had no awe of his dignity, but gathered round him as their special friend, for he delighted in the society of the lowly, and children clustered in His steps with the natural instinct that detects one who loves them. He was never engrossed by his own affairs, but ever ready to give himself up to those of others, to console them in difficulties, to sympathize with them in their sorrows or joys, and to relieve their sickness or wants. He showed abiding sympathy for human weakness, and to cheer the outcast and hopeless, He announced that He came to seek such as to others seemed lost. In His joy over a sinner won back to righteousness, He hears ever the angels of God rejoicing. There had never appeared in any age such a man, such a friend, or such a helper. To such an one I do most heartily and sincerely recommend you.