

glory. All the scoffs and sneers of wicked men; all the vileness a deluge could not wash away; all the efforts to tear down His kingdom; all the contumely heaped upon His perfect Son; all the shame of nakedness; all the agony of scourging, of mockery, of nailing to the cross; all the unforgivable blasphemy against the Holy Ghost—all patiently endured to give men some significant symbol of the vast riches of His glory. No wonder Moses could not see it and live.

According to this measure grant—what? “To be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.” Exactly what men need. That is our point of weakness. Peter—weak before a girl, profane when he was in no danger, laying up for himself bitter weeping when there was no occasion—only needed to be strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man to face a hostile nation and bring a Pentecost.

The Gospel is philosophic. It does not propose to give men what could be of no use, as coin to a child, knowledge to weak sinners, the power of nitroglycerine to careless boys; but to begin at the right point and develop character; to train manhood; to make a strong foundation; to enable a man to develop himself. The only possible salvation for man is strength to cling to principles, hold to promises, and never let go of God.

The highest truth of this magnificent prayer is brought out by a bit of exegesis. It turns on the word *ὅτι*, that. It is not a connective, but a causative particle. It means, “in order that.” Each petition is a step in order to a higher. The child learns to creep, not as a final mode of locomotion, but in order to stand; learns to stand in order to walk; to walk, in order to run and leap. He learns his a, b, c, not as an end of learning, but in order to read. He saves cents in order to have dollars; single dollars, in order to have thousands. So let this same mind be in you which was in Jesus Christ, in order that you may share His glorious exaltation. Be strengthened “in order that

Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.” O blessed word of permanence and continuous abiding! Too many are content with transient and infrequent visits from their Lord. They have not even the privileges of Mary and Martha of the abiding for a week at a great annual feast. The visits are as rare as angels' comings; and the men are not sufficiently strengthened by the Spirit to retain by faith the divine Comer. The strengthening is the first step of every Christian life. It comes to a man when he goes forward for prayers, when he first opens his heart to his pastor or Christian friend. If he go on, it is to receive Christ by faith. And ever after then he may claim the promise of Christ: “My Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.”

Third step. Strengthened, in order to Christ's indwelling, in order that “ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.” Naturally stability follows a strengthening. The Christian life is not an airy imagining; not a varying opinion. Its foundation is the Rock Christ Jesus. Its structure is “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.” “To present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight, grounded and settled, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel.” Lives fashioned on expediency are weathercocks that simply tell which way the popular wind blows; our opinions shift as the fickle public changes leaders; but lives conformed to eternal principles change only to grow greater in the lines already fit to be immortal. Nearly all streams know their summer scarcity, if not utter drouth. Only those that have their sources in the mountains, so high that the everlasting snow makes their tops glorious, can keep perpetually full. The hotter the summer, the brighter the sun, the fuller their ever green banks. The only perpetually full-banked stream in the universe