

test of intimacy and fellowship, this power of being silent when together.

In like manner we may have a happy sense of the presence of God, at times when no direct communication is passing, and our thoughts are on some other subject. "Pray without ceasing" does not mean that we shall do nothing but pray; "Search the Scriptures" does not bid us search nothing else; and, though it is the highest blessing of the Christian to hold communion with God by the Spirit, yet he is not to be always in that holy and sweet employment. There are times, and long periods of time, when his mind must be fixed on other things.

But need he at those times lose the sense of God's presence? Oh, no. In the first place, in one who truly loves God there is at all times an undercurrent of thought which is fixed on God; consciously or unconsciously to the man himself, the recollection of God mixes itself with all he is about, and there is something that underlies all surface-thoughts, and even those which seem deepest. They are not really the deepest; there is in him a deeper place still, and "the LORD is in this place."

At times, when we are not listening to the Voice of God in His Word; or speaking to Him in prayer, or even actually thinking of Him, we may experience the comfort of His presence. It is our happiness

that we may be *always* with God, and always conscious of being so. Our consciousness need not take the form of a thought or a definite feeling, yet is it there. "In Him we live, and move, and have our being."

We cannot consider the precious words of our Saviour, "Abide in Me, and I in you," except as meaning a *constant* union; or the assurance, "I am with thee," except as of a constant presence. This is what He promises, and this is what we are to seek and cherish. No loving wife, sitting or walking in silence with him who of all earthly objects is *first* with her, derives half so sweet a fellowship from his presence as we may find in the constant presence of God.

Wherever we are, there He is too. Whatever we are doing, it is in His presence we are doing it. Whatever we are thinking of, it is before Him that our thoughts are thus occupied. How happy this is! The husband may have to go, the wife may be called off to other things; but God will be with us always, and the sweet sense of His presence. Do nothing, say nothing, be engaged in nothing, and give your mind to nothing, with regard to which the thought, "God is here," would not be a happy thought. Let it be your delight to "walk with God," and to have Him, though unseen, yet always near, and known and felt to be so

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"NOT MY CHOICE."—"Be our days many, or be they few, from any burden which God may see fit to lay upon us our life may gain, not only contentment, but grandeur and nobleness. My strength during all my life has been precisely this—that I have no choice. During the last thirty-six years God has twelve times changed my home and fifteen times changed my work. I have scarcely done what I myself would have chosen. The support of my life is to know that I am doing what God wishes, and not what I wish myself."—DEAN FARRAR.

"SUNDAY REST."—"Sunday is not lost. While industry is suspended, while the plough lies in the furrow, while the Exchange is silent, while no smoke ascends from the factory,—a process is going on quite as important to the wealth of the nation as the work which is performed on more busy days. Man—the machine of machines—the machine compared with which all the contrivances of the Watts and Arkwrights are worthless—is repairing and winding up, so that he returns to his labours on Monday with clearer intellect and livelier spirits, with renewed corporeal vigour."—LORD MACAULAY.

"THE Church is a society for making men like Christ, and earth like Heaven."—DR. ARNOLD.