

disciples — that feeble band whom our Lord was soon to leave — it might have been almost disheartening to know that tribulation was in store for them; but it must have revived their desponding hearts to hear him say, "Be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." This, let it be noticed, is comfort additional to that to which I have already referred. We have seen that in its own nature sorrow and calamity will have a sanctifying and even pleasurable influence upon His disciples; but these words open to us another vista of joy.

Our Lord himself has tasted of the cup of woe. He came into the stronghold of Satan, and engaged in conflict with the powers of darkness in their firmest entrenchments. Like David, He went forth to meet the Phillistine encased in his armor, on ground of his own choosing, in the midst of the host of his adherents. The enemy possessed every advantage, but the Captain of our salvation triumphed; every device of the enemy was frustrated, every temptation resisted, and death itself, the last enemy, was destroyed. Now, the victory which Christ won was a victory on behalf of those that should trust in him, and the benefits of it are made over to his people. We have His pledge that no evil shall come upon us greater than we are able to bear, and that the power of the adversary is so checked and confined that he shall never triumph over us. That right arm which hurled the Prince of Darkness from his usurped authority, is uplifted for our protection, and there is no one of His people in tribulation to whom Christ is not ready to say, "Be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." Besides, He has suffered untold evil, and we cannot expect that the servant will be greater than his lord, although it may be said unto us, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin, as He has done." And if He who has suffered for our sake should now demand some faint reciprocation of His love, and call us to suffer for Him, we may be assured of His kind sympathy, and of a careful limitation of our sufferings proportioned alike to our need of it and our power of