

not know what to say: there I knelt, trembling. At last I said, 'Now, Lord Jesus, I am on my knees, and I will shut my eyes, and will not open them again till Thou hast pardoned my sins.' The devil whispered, 'You don't know whether you are elected or not,' but I still knelt on with shut eyes, and I thought I heard my mother's voice saying, 'My dear boy, 'God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'" I had heard that believing was taking God at his word, and I reasoned that if God loved the world, He loved me; that was the first step. And if I accepted His gift to me, then 'Whosoever' spelled 'Richard Weaver.' There and then joy and peace came."

He immediately began to tell others what the Lord had done for his soul. When he went to the colliery on the following Monday he found that the news had spread far and wide that "Undaunted Dick had got saved." Few believed it, many mocked, but the Lord gave him grace, and in after years many of these old companions were brought to Christ through his preaching. At the time of his conversion he owed pounds for drink, but now never rested till all his debts were paid, taking the opportunity of telling the publicans the change that had been wrought in him.

For more than six months he walked in the light of the Lord; then, under great provocation, he was led into fighting. Like a madman he rushed into a public house, calling for ale, which the landlady refused to give him, seeing that something was wrong. Then he was overcome by a sense of transgression; the fact of having gone into a public-house weighed on his mind; he lost peace and confidence, and became a backslider. What misery might have been saved if he had acted, then and there, on the assurance, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." He thus describes his next action:

"Now that I had fallen I was determined to settle accounts with the man I was to have fought with on the day of my conversion. I went to him, and said, 'Now I have backslidden, and you know how you have taunted and insulted me; now we will settle that fight once for all.' We met about a week after, and in the first round I broke his jaw with a blow of my fist, and was hailed the victor. Some years afterwards, when preaching in a Primitive Methodist chapel, the power of God filled the place, and I invited any one who desired to turn to the Lord to go into the vestry. A man and woman jumped up, and led the way, and forty or fifty others followed. In the after-meeting I was standing on a form, when the man who had gone in first came out of