

Jehovah was the portion of His cup. Nearer than all circumstances which otherwise could have pressed upon His heart as man—and which he fully felt. So truly was Jehovah the great circumstance and substance of His life in and through everything, that He could only wish that His joy might be fulfilled in His disciples. But then it was Jehovah only, and therein His perfection; the world a dry and thirsty land, where no water was, but Jehovah's favour was better than life; and was His life, practically, through a world where all was felt, but felt with Jehovah realized, Jehovah and His favour, the life of His soul, between Him and all. So the Christian, forsaken, perhaps, and imprisoned, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice." Nature has circumstances between itself and God; faith has God between the heart and circumstances. And what a difference! No peace like the peace which hiding in the tabernacle from the provokings of all men gives. But this is a divine life passing through the world. "Delight thyself in the Lord, He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Faith leans on Jehovah, on the Father's love and Jesus.

For the securing infallible happiness and peace we need not look to circumstances, save to pass through them with Him. This was perfect in Christ; He had only this, nor looked for aught else. We see it brightly manifested in Paul. In principle it is the path of every Christian, and some time or other he is exercised in it. The life