

When we are walking in dependence on God, there will be always liberty before God. Jonathan knew what he should do, and took some honey, because he went on in liberty, for God was with him, whilst Saul in legality had put himself and the people into bondage.

The word then, after grace in Christ has been fully shown, throughout the epistle, is, "Be strong in the Lord," (ver. 10.) We have here the privilege of individual dependence on God. Everything may be dark, but the Lord tells us to be strong. This is always accompanied with lowliness of heart; come what will, when the Lord is rested on, we are strong.

We are called to put on the panoply of God, to take it to us, (vers. 11, 12.) And no wonder: the conflict is not with men but with evil spirits, (ver. 12.) Who but an unbeliever would overlook or despise them? They are principalities and authorities; they are the universal *lords of this darkness*; they are spiritual wickednesses in heavenly places. Truly to withstand such we need the whole armour of God; which, remember, is not a question of standing, but of practical power, and this is in entire dependence.

If we pray, be it observed, without searching the Word, or read the Word without prayer, we may get no guidance, for Jesus said, "If my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will," &c.; without this I may be asking some foolish thing that would not be given. We are to stand against the wiles of the