

FINDING GOD.

"O that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat."—Job xliii. 3.

Job's words properly mean, "*O that I knew the finding of Him! I would go to his appointed place.*" He says, that if he only knew when, where, how to find God, he was willing at once to go to the trysting-place, to the rendezvous; wherever it was, whatever time he chose to appoint, by whatever way He pleased. Job sought a meeting with God, on this occasion, in order to inquire about His providential dealings; and the Lord did not seem to furnish Job with the opportunity he longed for. No, says the afflicted man, in spite of all my eager search, He is not to be found. "I go forward," (ver. 8;) but He is not there. "I go backward," still no trace of His steps. I cannot see Him on right or left hand. At length Job reached this conclusion, and was at rest, viz.—"He knoweth His own way with me. He has put me in the furnace to purge away the dross, and I shall come forth as gold," (v. 10). What may we learn from this Patriarch's experience?

1. *Be content not to understand the Lord's providences.* Be satisfied with the Lord's way, in the persuasion He leads the blind by a way that they know not. You will often be obliged to walk in providential darkness; that is, not the darkness of God's hidden face, but the darkness of trouble, calamity, affliction, sickness, peril, pain, bereavement. This is the darkness of which, Isaiah 1. 10, speaks:—"Who is among you that feareth the Lord, and obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light." And this is what Micah speaks of (vii. 8), "When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me." And this is what David sang of in Ps. xviii. 28, "The Lord will enlighten my darkness." But we must be content to know that light is coming in regard to God's dealings; at present, He declines explanations. It is like Job declining to meet Absalom, who was set upon engaging him to put to his hand in reversing the king's decree of banishment. When we sigh, "O that I knew the place wherein to find Him!" He replies by his silence. It is as if He said: "Wait till the day break; till the Lord come, who shall bring to light the hidden things of darkness."

2. *Rejoice that you understand His salvation.* The Holy Spirit leads every saved soul to the same meeting-place. You need not, you ought not to cry—"O that I knew where I might find Him!" in regard to your soul. You must not speak as if that were a mystery.—Where, when, how to find Him, in regard to salvation, is all made plain; the appointed

meeting-place is well known. If you say, "Where?" the answer is, at the Cross, at the blood of Jesus, at the true mercy-seat. There, there, He ever stands, waiting to meet the sinner. In Christ He is to be found in any soul. And if you say, "When?" His reply is, "Now—for this is the day of salvation; this is the hour of grace; this is the noon-tide of redemption." To-day, He is at that trysting-place. You have not been waiting for Him there, but He has been waiting for you. Ponder this truth again and again; forget all else to meditate on this alone. And if you say—"But how shall I meet Him?" the reply is ready. When you find out the grounds on which God accepts the sinner, and when your soul rests thereon, you meet Him; you have come already to the appointed rendezvous. When you are thinking of the Saviour, of His life of obedience, and of His death of woe, and when, perceiving herein the payment of the sinner's debt, your soul cordially falls in with this plan, you are meeting Him; you are at His seat. And in this position, (that is your soul reposing on the ransom) you may speak with Him about everything that concerns you, be it a temptation, or a snare, or a burden, or a sorrow, or a fear, or a doubt, or a corruption, or a trial, or a blessing. Your light is clearer than Job's for yours is the New Testament sunshine.—You know the finding of God—go, then, to His seat; go forward to His appointed place of meeting, and find Him there, as ready to tell you his heart, as Jonathan was ready to pour out all to David.

Verily He is "a God that hideth himself," as to providences, (Isaiah lvi. 15). Verily He is a God that meets us with unveiled face, in redemption, (Isaiah lxiv. 5). "Thou meetest those that remember thee in thy ways."

MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

1. *We conquer even before the battle is done.* In all other battles we do not know how the victory is to turn, until the battle is won. In the battle of Waterloo, it was long thought that the French had gained; and Napoleon sent several despatches to Paris, declaring that he had won. But in the fight with the world, Satan and the flesh, we know how the victory is to turn already. Christ has engaged to carry us through. He will guard us against the darts of the law, by hiding us in His blood. He defends us from the power of sin by His Holy Spirit, put within us. He will keep us, in the secret of His presence, from the strife of tongues. The thicker the battle, the closer will He keep to us; so that we