

in the flesh, although God did not leave him to struggle with Esau.

We need never be surprised if the Lord leaves us in difficulty, it is because there is something in us to be broken down, and which we need to be made sensible of; but grace is always behind all this. Christ is all grace, and if He sometimes appears to leave us to learn our weakness, still He is grace, perfect grace towards us.

It was not when Peter turned his eyes towards the Lord that Jesus shewed Himself to him. As to communion, indeed, this is true, but it was before his fall that Jesus had said, "I have prayed for thee," for it is always grace that anticipates us.

Jesus sees what Satan desires, and leaves us to that desire, but He takes care that we should be kept. It was not when Peter looked at Jesus, but when Jesus looked on Peter, that the latter wept bitterly. The love of Christ always precedes His own, it accompanies us, precedes us in our difficulties, and carries us through all obstacles. While it leaves us in Satan's hands that we may learn experimentally what we are, it is always near to us, and knows how to guard us from the wiles of the enemy. Here we see the perfect goodness and grace of the one who loves us, not only when our hearts are turned towards Him, but who adapts Himself to every fault in our characters, that we may be fully and completely blessed according to the counsels of God. All this should teach us to humble