

but we can be used directly to bring others into like precious faith.

Has God been able yet to use your presence at Conference to bring a brother minister into line on holiness? Are you more solicitous about an appointment than about this matter? Let us beware lest something is wrong with our living holiness, even if our profession is clear and decided.

We ought to be so aggressive, at Conference, that the Master could count on us in arranging about our very billet.

THE SAINTSHIP OF JOB.

The character of Job is quite unique among the prominent persons whose lives, as sketched by sacred penmen, give such an attractive power to our Scriptures. No patriarch of God's nation was he, no king or law-giver like David or Moses, but simply a private citizen, although a distinguished one. The lessons to be learned from his religious character, may come with all the greater force, seeing that no great special responsibility arising from official position modified in any way the great needs of his nature and relations to God.

Can we trace in what is recorded of him indications which show that his experiences in relation to sin, salvation and holiness, were substantially the same as those with which progressive Christians are familiar? We think we can.

From the book bearing his name we gather the following facts concerning him:—

1. He kept himself free from idolatry. See chapter 31.
2. He was liberal in his gifts to the poor.
3. He regularly attended to family worship by the offering of sacrifices.
4. He hoped for a future life of blessing.
5. Though greatly afflicted he manifested resignation and trust in God.
6. He is declared to have been perfect and upright, first in the introductory verses of the first chapter, and again at the interviews with Satan and the sons of God.
7. It is also distinctly stated at the close of the account of his great affliction and of his conduct in connection with it, "In all this Job sinned not nor charged God

foolishly." And again, "In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

In his conversations with the men who came to talk with him, he challenges examination of his previous character, and that with complete success. It might possibly be objected that in chap. 7-20, he makes confession in the words, "I have sinned," but the Revised Version gives the wording, "*If I have sinned.*" The same version makes him say, chap. 9-21, instead of "Though I were perfect," (Authorized Version), "*I am perfect.*" The sinning only a possibility, the perfection a fact. We have in this grand character one whom God approves, whom man cannot truthfully blame, and who being assured of his own rightness, is not afraid to avow the truth.

How many modern professors of religion can measure up to his standard?

And yet this perfect and exemplary person needs much improvement, for we find that after he had triumphantly vindicated himself from the accusations of Eliphaz, Bildad and Tophar, and after the harangue of Elihu in a somewhat similar strain to the other three, that the Almighty Himself calls him to account.

The 38th and 39th chapters give the first address of Jehovah to him, and then in a few verses of the 40th a brief and humble reply from Job. The remainder of the 40th and all of the 41st chapter gives another address of God, and again Job's reply occupies just six verses of the 42nd chapter. It is most significant that in all the speech of God to him there is nothing to show that any boast that Job had previously uttered concerning his own righteousness was in the least degree incorrect. Nor do we find in the confessions of Job anything that indicates that he felt guilty when tried by the law he had previously known, or that he had not lived fully up to the light which previous communion with God had given him. It is true that in the Authorized Version he is represented as saying, "Behold I am vile," but in the Revised Version it is rendered, "Behold I am of small account," and his deepest moan of humiliation is reached when he says, chap. 42, 5-6: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee, where-