

statement therefore is very similar to many statements of Christ and the Apostle James, where they show the necessity of good works as the outcome of an active living faith.

Such are the three virtues, laid down by the prophet, that should characterize our lives. They are enumerated in St. Matthew's gospel under the different heads, "judgment, mercy, and faith." They are comprehensive and deep-searching: and are regarded by Christ as the "weightier matters" of the law. We may well say, "who is sufficient for these things"? To lead such a life as this we will require, assuredly, the aid of God's Spirit. We shall require to exercise faith in Christ, and look to Him constantly for strength and guidance. Our strength must come from God. By intimate fellowship with Christ we shall become more like Him in character. Unconsciously we become like those with whom we associate daily. We imbibe their principles and gradually we acquire their tastes and their habits. This is what Christ said unto his disciples shortly before he was to leave them: "Now are ye clean through the word that I have spoken unto you." The disciples had walked with their Master daily, they had listened to the wise words that fell from his lips, and so, in some measure at least, they became like Him in character. Through their intercourse with Him, they found out the secret of a pure and holy life.

Have we never noticed the purifying influence of a sudden realization of the presence of God? There is nothing that will banish evil so quickly from our hearts. And if the simple thought of God has such a purifying effect upon us, what must be the result of trying to hold to the thought, of endeavoring to look to God, and live in his presence at all times? If this is our attitude to God sin has lost much of its power over us.

Again, it is only by looking to Christ that we can obtain a true vision of ourselves: and having obtained such a vision, it is not by simply mourning over our sins that we can hope to be made better, but by continuing to look to Christ.

"Reproach not thine own soul, but know thyself,
Nor hate another's crime, nor loathe thine own,
It is the dark idolatry of self
Which when our thoughts and actions once are gone
Demands that man should weep and bleed and groan;
Oh vacant expiation! Be at rest:
The past is death's, the future is thine own."

The whole and sole remedy for this disease of sin, is not, by mourning over it as though there were no remedy for it, but by looking to Christ and seeking the aid of the Holy Spirit. See Christ, behold Christ, at all times and in all places. And if we continue to be troubled with our deformity, what