

When the Spirit thus makes us feel assured that we are the children of God, and safe forever, within the bonds of the everlasting covenant, how bright the prospects which open up to us! how glorious the hopes which revive within us! and how ardent the love which our bosoms cherish to our heavenly Father! Being recognized as his children, we are made to feel that we are heirs of God, the Omnipotent Sovereign of the Universe; and the happiness arising from all this is heightened by the sublime idea, that we are not only heirs of God, but joint heirs with Christ, our elder brother. No wonder that the contemplation of all this fills God's people sometimes, with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. And surely of all things, this consciousness of sonship to God is calculated to fill us with a self-respect, which will tend most powerfully to preserve us from everything mean, and impure, and dishonorable. Surely, when a man is elevated with the idea that he is a son of God, he will not stoop to anything which would dishonor his parentage. Surely, when a man is admitted into the presence of the God of infinite holiness, and purity, and permitted to enjoy communion with him, he would not forfeit that communion, by indulging in anything unholy, or impure. And having thus obtained a relish for what is so pure and elevating, he will come to loathe what is impure and debasing. And surely, when a man lives in the prospect of entering upon the inheritance of an everlasting kingdom, when the troubles and trials of this life are over, he would not grieve the Saviour, who died to procure it for him, by indulging in any of those sinful pleasures, which he hates, and will not tolerate. And thus you can see how the comforting influences of the Spirit helps forward the sealing process, and tends to cleanse us from all filthiness of the flesh, and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.

IV. THE SPIRIT HELPS THE INFIRMITIES OF THE SAINTS, ESPECIALLY AIDS THEM IN PRAYER, EXCITING EARNEST DESIRES IN THEM, AND DIRECTING THEM ARIGHT IN THE EXERCISE.

How manifold the remaining imperfections, and how