

to heaven, the way in which Christ Himself walked, and in which He wishes us to follow Him, is a way in which we must *deny* ourselves, suffer and conquer. Secondly, that a Christian can have true faith, and be taught of God, as in Peter's case (Mark viii,) without having the flesh in him judged, so as to render him capable of walking in the way into which this truth brings him. It is important to remember this; sincerity may exist without knowing oneself. Peter's heart was not ready for the cross; how many hearts there are in this state! Sincere, no doubt, but they have not spiritual courage to accept the consequences of the truth they believe. See the difference in Paul, made strong by the presence of the Holy Ghost, and by faith. He says in the presence of death, "To know Him (Christ) and the power of His resurrection and the communion of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death"—Phil. iii. 10. There was in him the power of the Holy Ghost, and "he bore always in his body the death of Jesus in order that the life of Jesus should manifest itself in his body." Happy man! always willing to suffer everything rather than not follow fully the Lord Jesus, and to confess His name whatever the consequence might be: and having walked faithfully, by grace to obtain at last the prize of His heavenly calling.

But the Lord does not conceal the consequence; He warns us that if we wish to be with Him, if we wish to follow Him, we must deny ourselves and