

to his suffering saints. But are we in reality, faithful and sincere? Do we live by faith and not by sight? Do we indeed receive Christ as our Saviour? Do we copy his heavenly mindedness, his humility, his benevolence, his loving labours, his self-denial—are we just to all men—are we charitable in our judgments of each other, as well as in our own acts.

And is our Christian life consistent and of a piece—does the blade shoot forth the ear, and after that does the spiritual plant ripen into full corn in the ear. For if that is the case, we must, by necessity, become true and holy partakers of that Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ; which was instituted by the Lord himself; and whereby we do shew forth the Lord's death till he comes. That Sacrament is a vital part of the Christian's life—it is the dew from heaven upon us—the shower heaven sent, that preserves vitality and increaseth growth. Can you fancy a blade ripening without dew—a world without the rain cloud. If so you may then imagine a Christian disciple without the Sacrament. At Baptism we may spiritually be said to be formed into the blade—by sacred services and steadiness of holy exertion into the ear. It is only by the Holy Communion of the Lord's Body and Blood that we ripen into the full corn in the ear. We should still without the Sacrament—or with its neglect—fulfil the outline of our existence—for the Sacrament is least a part of our nature, of our history; but then we should reach a blighted end; there would not be full corn, nor whole some corn, but the blackness of ashes in the ear, and the stalk would be put in—the sickle, I say, of divine mercy and wisdom would be baffled, and could not gather us for our allotted place in heaven, but for our doom in the regions of remorse and hopeless woe.

No—the 'Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is the blessing from the Lord, which received with true faithful hearts, and after due preparation will render us visibly rich. That is the food which will cause our fainting hearts to revive and courageously to persevere unto the end in our spiritual warfare—that is the elixir which will cause us to open our eyes and see constantly with a clearer and more delightful vision, the wondrous things of God's law—that is the true viaticum, whereby we shall have food and raiment, and every thing that will cause and aid us to go on our way rejoicing. The blessing of the Lord—who can express—or who can fathom the Lord's blessing—the Lord's favorite blessing—that peculiar Sacrament which dying he ordained—that table which he spread as the last legacy of infinite