

fest in the Lord Jesus Christ, that his soul is filled with admiration and love. He exclaims, "Lord what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou hast visited him." "What am I, or my father's house, that thou deignest to make us kings and priests to dwell with thee forever!" "Is it possible that Jesus loves me and has given himself for me!" "Blessed be his holy name—may I never cease to love, praise, and adore him!" Thus he cultivates a suitable state of mind to come into his presence.

To be able to hold converse with kings and emperors; to thank them for favors and to implore their continuance;—we are greatly assisted and encouraged by listening for some time to what they have to communicate. If we find them well disposed towards us—if they seem kind and affable, we are greatly relieved from our embarrassments, and much encouraged to address them freely; we fear not to pour out before them our whole heart. Such is the state of mind possessed by the disciple of Jesus who diligently ponders the Living Oracles—not as a "dead letter," but as God's message of love and mercy to lost and ruined man. He believes that God loves him. He exclaims, "We love him because he has first loved us;" and he approaches him with courage and confidence. The more he is with the Lord in secret, the more delight he takes in doing the will of God from the heart. No duties are irksome to the servant who delights in the will of his master. "Lord it is my meat and my drink to do thy will."

In this state of mind the true hearted disciple of Jesus, whether in the social circle or great congregation, will not order his words or his tones to please his auditors. He will speak as in the presence of God. How much, alas! men pray to their hearers! Certain expressions and passages of scripture are warped in, because men of peculiar opinions are present; and there are men sufficiently ingenious to establish or refute any doctrine while ostensibly speaking to Jehovah! Will a man mock God? Yet this is mocking him! We would not dare thus to trifle in the presence of our rulers.

Many must get on just such a tone and their voice at a certain key, or they do not enjoy prayer! They would be ashamed to speak to one of their neighbors in such a style. Indeed, if some of our vociferous "able men" in prayer—who slap their hands together and rock to and fro like a ship at sea—were to speak thus to one of their neighbors, they would be avoided as mad-men; and yet with the masses this is the height of devotion. Others there are who mutter or speak so low that they are barbarians to all who would be otherwise edified.