

brother Lot. God's love is towards men, and as I am in the power of it, I must act according to the power of it, and in the *direction* in which it works. If I am in the place of faith, God's interest must occupy me, for if I serve Christ, I follow Him, and when I follow Him, I am serving best. Serve Him I *cannot*, unless I am in the place of faith ; and if I am there, I am, though "enduring afflictions," occupied with His interests according to His own mind. Peter, like Lot, diverged from this place when he said, "I go a fishing." And seven went. Instead of serving, he was then hindering and damaging others. Thus did Moses at first, and thus did Saul. They failed to help when they themselves were off the ground of faith. How could they lead others right when wrong themselves ? If Lot wants well-watered plains, surely he is off the ground of faith, and he is found helpless among the unrighteous. If Peter is restless, he is off faith—goes a fishing, and has company enough ; but anything but blessings follows them. If Saul wants distinction, he is off faith and is rash and extreme in everything. Abraham abides in faith and patience. Paul abides in faith and patience, and they serve truly and well to the end.

And not only so, but their own souls know it. And this is the present *reward of faith*. Abram is refreshed and blessed by Melchisedec. Paul knows himself to be "possessed of all things." What a reward for the work of faith ! What *wages*, if we may so say ! It is the "fulness of joy," which the