

UNFAITHFULNESS AND FAITHFULNESS.

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

It may be asked, why put "Unfaithfulness" first? Because, alas! it is so much more common than "Faithfulness." How subtle is self and its workings! How needful not only to start from "Gilgal" (where judgment on the flesh was carried out and the reproach of Egypt rolled away, Josh. v.—for us the practical application of the cross, see 2 Cor. iv. 10), but to return thereto, especially after any victory that grace may have enabled us to obtain. How apt is a feeling of self-gratulation to creep over the heart, and unless we are consciously in the Lord's presence it is not detected. It is not always we can detect the enemy who may be using a friend to puff up the flesh in us, like what is recorded of the well known and (through grace) faithful preacher Rowland Hill, who, on one occasion after preaching, when a friend came up and said how beautifully he had preached, replied, "So the devil whispered to me before I left the pulpit." Thus Satan was detected and defeated. How sad when a preacher (as alas! one has sometimes known to be the case) even when speaking of Christ and the truth, does so in such a way that the *preacher* is the prominent thing left on the mind of those listening. The following incident gives a good illustration of what I refer to: