

The new heart has no hopes; perhaps there is hardly a bad man or child to be found but will tell you he hopes when he dies he shall go to heaven. The hopes of wicked men and children are bad hopes, they are deceiving—they are destroying; is there not something awful in hearing a bad man or boy on his dying bed saying, he hopes to get to heaven. The man or child who has a new heart has new hopes, his hopes are all laid on Jesus, and therefore good and sure hopes; may God graciously give you my dear reader, a new heart and new hopes. It is with great pleasure, I present before you a pleasing instance of a little child, whose heart evidently appeared changed by divine grace. Long life was not given him, but he had a new heart, and that was far better. His name was James Stevens, he was born June 28, 1797, his disposition was lively yet thoughtful, most children are lively but few are thoughtful, he was both. He asked leave from his father when a very little child, to go with him into his chamber, his father admitted him, and inquired if there was anything he wished him to pray for, for his dear boy; the child replied with great sweetness, that he might have a new heart and a new spirit, for this the father prayed and his prayers were heard. God laid affliction upon the child; one day he was crying, his father asked the reason, and little James answered, he was afraid he had not got a new heart; on this he prayed with many tears, that God would prepare him for death; the following conversation between the father and his son, will show what grace did to the heart of this sweet child.

"Have you any righteousness, James?"

"I hope I have."

"What, of your own?"

"Oh no, there is no righteousness but Christ's."

"Do you love Christ?"

"I hope I do."

"Why do you love Christ?"

"Because he loved me."

"How do you know he loves you?"

"Because he said, 'suffer little children to come unto me.'"

"Did you ever feel your need of the grace of God, and long for it?"

"I hope I have."

"Why do you want it?"

"That I may go to heaven."