

**Communion.**

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It is possible for the child of God to be in three different states of soul. The first and normal state is that of satisfied communion. David has most preciously illustrated this state in the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell

in the house of the Lord forever." Nothing could more perfectly voice the fact of close and satisfied communion than this most precious of all the Psalms.

The next state is that of the soul out of communion and satisfied. There is no Psalm expressive of this state. It is the soul in a back-slidden and carnally secure state. It is the Laodicean state, in which the soul says, being taken up with itself, its possessions and pleasures, "I am rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing," and does not know that it is poor and blind and naked, and has need of everything. It was the state of soul that David was in when he fell into sin in the

matter of Uriah the Hittite. He was out of communion with God and did not know it, or rather did not mind it. He was ready to slay the man of Nathan's parable, but did not perceive that he was the sinner. We can think of no worse state than this, to be out of communion with God and not know it, or not mind it.

To be out of communion with God and content with the beggarly elements of this world, is a pitiable plight for Christians to be in, especially if they keep up a pretence of worship. How hard to pray when the soul is not in communion with God! how hard to sing when the joy of the Lord is not at heart! how hard to read his word when it is not sweet to the taste,

when it does not burn within us as we read it! how hard to attempt to work for him, to speak to the soul about him and an assured knowledge of spiritual communion!

Then there is a third state when the soul is out of communion and is deeply and sorely grieved and distressed about it, and longs to come back and stand once more in the presence of God. This was David's case as portrayed in the 42nd Psalm: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, oh God!" Nothing but God would satisfy. The world was a blank to him; his soul was consumed with a burning thirst for God; he remembered the

days of old when he had been in communion with God; he now realized that he was a wanderer, and he longed to come back and drink again the sweet and eternal waters of life that flow from beneath the throne of God.

If any of our readers are out of communion with God, we would lovingly ask them in which state they are in. Are you out of communion with God and content to be so, or are you out of communion with God, but panting after him as the hart panteth after the water brooks? This latter state is a distressing condition to be in, but it is a hopeful condition, for such a soul shall "yet praise him for the help of his counten-

ance." We may say to such: Why art thou cast down, for you shall yet praise him?

**The Two Heaps.**

SEE in this world two heaps—one of human happiness, and one of human misery. Now if I can take but the smallest bit from the second heap, and add but a little to the first, I do some good. If, as I go home, a child has dropped a half-penny, and by giving it another I dry its tears, I feel that I have done something. I should be glad indeed, to do great things, but I will not neglect such little things as these.—John Newton.

**THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 26.**

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow—Phil. ii. 10.  
How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself—Exodus x. 8.  
The Lord hath respect unto the lowly—Psalm cxxviii. 6.



Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe—  
O Lamb of God, I come

Just as I am—Thy love I own,  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea Thine alone—  
O Lamb of God, I come!

God giveth grace to the humble—1 Peter v. 5.  
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of  
He shall save the humble person—Job xxii. 29. [God—1 Pet. v. 6.