

told the Lord
death." The
bedee, "I am
you, I will let
t did they do?
says to Peter,
r?" He says
to have kept
You have con-
left me alto-

ins to *fight*.
ghter," going
Pilate, and
governor mar-
th oaths and
avelling on.
fear—"fear
"—we will
should have
enies Christ
sus *afar off*
The Lord
ot need ex-
you have

he women,
eth before
st to him.
o Simon."
xxiv. 37,
ve noticed
through-
—*inter-*
's soul.
erias, the
ow. He
n these?"
ou. The
a weaker
you say
r, Peter
cu; but
still. Is
ren, we

have had enough to convince us that we do not love the Lord
much; we can only appeal to Him that we love him *some*,
which perhaps few but He can see. "The fire of coals" on
the shore reminded Peter how recently he had warmed him-
self at the wrong fire—the enemy's camp. He was probed
by the Saviour to show him that He loved him yet. Let
us go by the fire of *restoring love*. Then we will hear Jesus
say, "Come and dine." Then He may say, "My people, I
cannot have this or that" in our ways,—and the remedy will
be applied. As far as we may go in wandering from Him,
so far will He go in restoring grace after us, to bring us back.

Just one thing more, if you would like to know how you
can walk *without falling*. The Lord says to Peter, "Verily,
verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young thou girdest
thyself and walkest whither thou wouldest, (verse 18).
When you had vigor of your own you expended it, but
always on the wrong road. Now, when thou shalt be *old*,
thou shalt stretch forth thine hands, and another shalt gird
thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not." Paul said,
"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my *infirmities*
that the power of Christ may rest upon me." "When I am
weak then I am strong" (2 Cor. xii., 9, 10). If we would
have the power of Christ to rest upon us, let us take the
place of old people rather than of young ones—of realized
and confessed weakness—thankful to lean upon another.
Let us not try to go on our own way and in our own
strength, like Simon Peter, but let us give ourselves up to
the Lord Jesus, saying, "My foot *slippeth*, Lord, *keep it*."
We need not wait for hoary hairs for that, but *now* and
where we are, it may be realized, if only we cast ourselves in
helplessness on Him, our prayer,—"*Hold thou me up*, and
I shall be safe."

Now Peter's restoration is almost completed, but he is
nearly off the track again. What is this? When Satan
cannot get hold of anything in a man's *self*, he tempts him
with some *other* man. Peter says, "What shall *this man*
do? (verse 21). It does not matter *who* that man is,—if
he is even the brother in whom you put the most confidence
—the one used in your conversion perhaps—if you get your
eyes on *this man*, down you will go. Peter sees John com-
ing, and he is almost switched off the track. Fancy the
beloved John, who leaned upon the Lord's bosom, setting a
man wrong! Yes, even the beloved John, if in the wrong
place before us, may set us wrong. Christ rebukes Peter.
He says, leave John to Me, your business is to follow Me,