

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 vernor mar- th oaths and avelling on. fear—"fear"—we will should have enies Christ us *afar off* The Lord t 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 himself 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 girded 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 coming, 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,