

A brief and general description may now be given, of the chief privileges and blessings divinely conferred on the true obedient Christian, and which so greatly contribute to his own happiness, while passing through this earthly and probationary state. The first and greatest of all, and on which, indeed, all the others depend, is the conscious assurance of the forgiveness of all his past transgressions, through the witness of the Holy Spirit, witnessing to his own spirit that God is reconciled to him, and has adopted him as His son, according to the Scripture testimony on the point; thereby enabling him confidently to say,—“Abba, Father, the Lord is my God;”—“Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away.” “He hath turned my sorrow into gladness;” therefore “I will praise thee, and will trust and not be afraid.” While so trusting and acting in obedience to the divine commands, contained in the Scriptures, he may, and according to the degree of his faith does, actually rely on the Scripture assurances of the divine protection from all real evil; and of a safe guidance through all the pathway of life. These assurances tell him, as to protection,—“His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” “The Lord is thy keeper, and shall preserve from all evil.” For instruction and guidance he is told;—“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths,”—“He will be our guide even unto death.” For preservation from trouble, He has the following, among many other promises:—“Surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him,”—“there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.” But if in the course of Divine Providence, affliction or trouble of any kind is permitted to fall on the righteous man, for his chastening or any other gracious purpose, he has for his support and consolation, these and other enduring promises;—“The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.” “The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord, He is their strength in the time of trouble.” “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain thee.” But further, he has the following with many other divine assurances of deliverance from trouble:—“The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants; and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.” “I will turn their mourning