

This resolution was like a nail fastened in a sure place, and as a confirmation of the divine approval, I derived great comfort from the passage, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." I thought God had given me this token for good, to encourage me that I had set out in the right way, and that he would assist me in my heavenly journey. As I had never yet, to my knowledge, shed a tear under a deep sense that I was a sinner against God, I thought due conviction for sin had not taken place; but all my sorrow and fear had arisen from selfish motives, to escape the damnation of hell, and not from a principle of love to God. I therefore thought the first work upon my heart must be repentance for sin, realizing my guilt and danger, and exposure to the divine displeasure. I believed myself a criminal, and if I died as I was, I could not be saved. I apprehended all the threatenings and judgments recorded in God's Word, were against me, and the more distress I felt, the more true repentance would be evinced. I therefore endeavored to encourage it, and prayed and agonized unceasingly. In whatever my hands were employed, the eye of my mind was looking to God, begging him to complete his work in me. At length I began to feel the hardness of my heart give way to penitential sorrow for my sin. Tears flowed freely from a sense of my Savior's suffering and sacrifice. I had likewise a deep discovery of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. I was truly ashamed before God, and saw that the purity of his holy law and divine justice required, that if I died in my sins; I must have owned the sentence just, and said amen to my own condemnation. But although I had such a terrifying sight of my position, I was glad I saw and felt it; for I fled to Jesus, and felt a constant hunger-