

way, yet I both preached it plainly, and strongly encouraged those that had before experienced it, and such as professed to receive it at that time, either at Sunderland or elsewhere. This I continued to do in '59 and '60: in which time many were made partakers of it in York, at and near Pocklington, in Hull, and various other places. It was the enjoyment of this which supported me in the trials I met with at Wednesbury, in the two following years. During which, many were added to the witnesses of it in Birmingham, Dudley, Darlaston, Wolverhampton, and Wednesbury. It was my own experience which emboldened me to assert it, even where it was opposed by our chief members, partly because of the faults of some that professed it; but chiefly because of the natural enmity of their hearts to God.

What I had experienced in my own soul, was an instantaneous deliverance from all those wrong tempers and affections, which I had long and sensibly groaned under; an entire disengagement from every creature, with an entire devotedness to God: and from that moment, I found an unspeakable pleasure in doing the will of God in all things. I had also a power to do it, and the constant approbation both of my own conscience and of God. I had simplicity of heart, and a single eye to God, at all times and in all places, with such a fervent zeal for the glory of God and the good of souls, as swallowed up every other care and consideration. Above all, I had uninterrupted communion with God, whether sleeping or waking. Oh that it were with me as when the candle of the Lord thus shone upon my head! While I call it to my mind, my soul begins to wing its way toward that immediate enjoyment of God. May it never be retarded, but press into the glorious liberty which is equally free for all the sons of God.

As to the manner wherein this work was wrought—1. After I was clearly justified, I was soon made sensible of my want of it. For although I was enabled to be very circumspect, and had a continual power over outward and inward sin, yet I felt in me what I knew was contrary to the mind which was in Christ, and what hindered me from enjoying and glorifying Him as I saw it was the privilege of a child of God to do. And such I knew myself to be, both

from the fruit and the witness of His Spirit; which I felt in a strong degree, supporting me in conflicts of a very close and particular nature. 2. My conviction of the need of a farther change, was abundantly increased, by the searching preaching of Mr. Walsh, of blessed memory. This kept my conscience very tender, even to a degree of scrupulosity; and helped me to be much in private prayer, and kept me watching thereunto. 3. When I saw my call to preach, the difficulties attending that office showed me more and more the need of such a change, that I might *bear all things*: and by searching the Scriptures, I saw the possibility of it more clearly, and was stirred up to seek it more earnestly. 4. When I began travelling, I had no end, aim, or design, but to spend and be spent for God: not counting my life, or anything dear, so I might finish my course with joy: which indeed I expected would be very short, as "I dealt my life at every blow." I saw as clearly as I do now that nothing furthers that end so much, as a heart and life wholly devoted to God.

This made me neglect the advantage I had in my youth of a tolerable acquaintance with Latin, which I could easily have recovered: but this and every other gain I counted but loss, that I might win that intimacy with God, which I still think to be the life of preaching. Therefore I husbanded all the time that I could save from company, eating, or sleeping, to lay out in wrestling with God, for myself and the flock: so I devoted to God some part of every leisure hour, over and above the hour from eleven to twelve in the forenoon, and from four to five in the afternoon. Herein I was sweetly drawn after God, and had many and large views of that salvation which I wanted, and which He had provided in His Son. The exceeding great and precious promises were clearly opened to me. And having a full assurance of the power and faithfulness of the promiser, my soul often tasted of their sweetness. And though unbelief prevented my immediate possession, yet I had a blessed foretaste of them. This made me desire full enjoyment more and more. I abhorred whatever seemed to keep me from it. I sought out every obstruction. I was willing to offer up every Isaac, and inflamed with great ardour in wrestling