

conveyed in the passage of the Jordan is confirmed by the words of the Lord Jesus: "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it" (Matt. xvi. 25). And just in the same way that crossing the river appeared to the Israelites like stepping into death, so does it appear to ourselves when called upon to brave difficulties and dangers, as though we, too, shall be drowned in the sea. But this is only Satan's lie to frighten us; and not being ignorant of his devices, we should go forward, remembering that there is One who at the last moment will divide the waters. Realizing this, we shall be enabled to say, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee" (Ps. lvi. 3).

It is of importance to bear in mind that the Lord Jehovah brought the Israelites to the river Jordan for the trial of their faith. He did not tell them how they were to cross until the time came; indeed, so precious was the testing process in His sight, that the feet of the priests were required to rest in the waters, to stand still in Jordan, before those waters parted, and deliverance was wrought out. Thus the Lord taught His poor trembling children their own weakness and insufficiency, as contrasted with His own Almighty power and all-sufficiency. Standing by the brink of the river, they learned that difficulties insurmountable to them were as nothing to Him. And this is what He would have us learn. He would not have us look at circumstances, but at Himself. It is His will that we should

REMEMBER HIS POWER, AND EXPECT HIS
DELIVERANCE.

Thus He reproves our faint-heartedness, reminding us of what He has done in the past. Who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid? "I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared."

He has also given us exceeding great and precious promises, and on claiming them for our own we shall find His power put forth on our behalf. Thus even death itself may be much easier than we imagine; for, encompassed by the Saviour's presence and cheered by His faithful promise, the waters will divide as soon as we begin to cross the river. Has He not said, "I will be with thee?" We must not, then, look forward to a wading-through process, as it is so often pictured and from which the heart naturally shrinks, but to the waters dividing by the power of Christ on the first step into them; we shall go over on dry ground, as the

Israelites crossed over Jordan, so soon as our feet but touch the stream. The natural man cannot comprehend how simple faith can bring about such practical results; but this is God's way, and child-like trust binds Him to appear for us and stretch out His hand for our deliverance.

If there be one thing more fully revealed in Scripture than another, it is this—that He cannot fail the soul that trusts Him. May we grasp this truth! Then shall we be enabled by blessed personal experience to say, "Out of weakness made strong."

My brother or sister! how is it with you? Is your heart failing at the sight of what are apparently insuperable difficulties in the heavenward path? Are you dreading to cross the river of death, or to wade through the waters of affliction? "Be not afraid, neither be dismayed." Even if a large endurance of trial be needful, "be of good courage!" You can never sink so low as to be under the "underneath" of the "everlasting arms." Cling, then, to the promise: "When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee;" and let it suffice that the Lord will go before, and be with you. Go, then, calmly forward in faith. Honour Him, by trusting to the uttermost, and you will find that what looks so hard will become easy upon the step forward in faith being taken.

"Forward let the people go,
Israel's God will have it so;
Though the path be through the sea,
What is that to thee and me?
He who bids us pass the waters,
Will be with his sons and daughters."
—*Divine Life.*

"NO FANATICS IN OUR CHURCH."—The Rev. W. Haslam one day, in the course of conversation with a clergyman, remarked:—"You have been praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Now, if the Holy Spirit did settle upon your church, and some of your congregation began to make evident manifestation of it, what would you do?" "Turn them all out," was his quick response, "turn them all out at once; we would have no fanatics in our church." Such is the attitude of many Christian churches in this day. They pray for what they do not wish, and which, if they did obtain, they would get rid of as quickly as possible. With them Christianity is fast becoming a mere ceremonial. It is not this ceremonialism we would offer sinners, but a living, risen, glorious Saviour, who died for sinners, and rose again.—*Sel.*