

the bank that issued the notes solvent and able to meet the liabilities? Poverty may prevent the payment of a debt. Inability may cause failure in the execution of an undertaken task. Forgetfulness may make a man break his promise. It can never be so with God. With him all things are possible. Almighty power, infinite resources, and incessant watchfulness are pledged to the fulfilment of every promise he has made.

We may also ask: Is he who made the promise willing to fulfil it? If he is not he may readily find a way to evade his obligations. But God has given us the most indisputable evidence of his willingness to confer benefits upon us. In designing and executing the plan of redemption, he has scooped out channels through which the blessings of his mercy may flow out to man. He will not obstruct those channels and frustrate his own designs. He has given us the heir as a proof that we may have any of the possessions that belong to him. He has placed in our hands the title deeds of an inheritance as a proof that we are welcome to any flower or tree that grows upon the estate. He has opened for us the great reservoir of blessing as a proof that he will not refuse the free use of any streamlet that flows from it. All the promises are yea and amen in Christ. The gift of His Son includes all other needful things.

God's promises are precious from their accessibility. They are bunches of grapes which hang within the reach of all. They are pearls for which any one can dive. It is only those who exclude themselves who cannot obtain the benefits of their provisions. Compliance with the conditions upon which they are made is possible. Many a promise might be put beyond our reach by the conditions annexed to it. Rothschild might promise me a million dollars to swim across the Atlantic. He might be able to keep his promise, but I could never comply with the conditions. But the conditions of God's promises are all reasonable and can all be fulfilled through the merits and strength of Christ our living head. The reason why men do not lay hold on the promises, is not so much from want of ability to comply

with the conditions as from want of any desire to obtain these provisions. The fruit itself is not palatable to their taste. Men in their natural state do not relish the fruits of righteousness, hence they turn the branches on which they grow, out of the way. Those who like wallowing in the mire cannot feel the need of clean garments. A blind man cannot be very anxious for the light of a candle. Men spiritually depraved and blind will always undervalue God's promises.

The promises of God are precious in their suitableness. They are adapted to man's necessities. It is felt need that makes them precious. They are fountains at which the thirsty only can drink. Those that have no thirst will find no sweetness in these waters. They are provisions for the hungry, they that have no hunger will find nothing palatable in them. They are staves on which to lean. Those who feel their lameness, weakness, weariness, will find them acceptable support, but to the strong and self reliant they will seem to be only an incumbrance. They are the curative medicines for hopeless cases of spiritual sickness. Only those who feel their disease will take the remedy.

The promises of God are precious in their indications. They are the evidence of God's interest in us. They are like the letters from home that meet us at the different points of our journey when we are travelling. They remind us of the interest which dear ones at home take in our welfare. Bible promises are the written assurances of our Father's interest in our well-being. In older countries, in the city parks, and on the sides of highways some benevolent men have erected fountains and placed seats where travellers may find refreshment and rest. These works perpetuate the memory of the benefactors. God's promises are his fountains and resting places at which the weary traveller to Zion may find refreshment and rest by the way. They are the lamps provided for those who go down into the dark places of the earth. They are always ready when needed, and the greater the darkness the more brightly they shine. But in this respect they are only