

He would then ask them all to lay their hearts to aim after increased knowledge in the things of God—prayerfully, earnestly, with their faith, reading the Word of God. That was a most important point for them—that with carefulness, earnestness, prayerfulness, and especially with application of their own hearts, *they continually give themselves day by day to the study of this blessed Book; for in the measure in which we attain to an increased knowledge of God—that is, the knowledge as they found it in the blessed Book—not as it has come in amongst men as Christians, but as they found it as a perfect revelation which God had made of Himself—so in measure should they be increased in conformity to the mind of God.*

Then to knowledge they were to add temperance—not temperance in the common acceptation of the term, but self-control; and to self-control they were to add patience—being satisfied with the will of God at all times, and under all circumstances, to say—“It is my Father who is doing this; though He slay me yet will I trust Him, whether in trials and difficulties and disappointments, losses or crosses; yea, though I be on the point of death it is my Father’s will, who cannot err—my Father, who says, ‘All things work together for good to them that love God.’”

To patience they were to add Godliness—that state of heart or mind in which they thought that everything was done under the eye of God. To godliness they were to add brotherly kindness. He (Mr. Müller) might be allowed on that occasion to hint at this—How it became them to love all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and not only those who saw eye to eye with them. Let them seek to be stirred up in their inmost souls by that meeting—to see that it be their glorious and earnest purpose that, however much they had failed up to the present, they would henceforth, with greater fervour and spirit, love all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter by what name they might be called, or to what denomination they belonged. With brotherly kindness there should be love universal, loving even their enemies; and the more they had of these graces, the more they would be like God Himself. “If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Might he be permitted to ask if they had all made their calling and election sure? That was a deeply important point to be settled. He trusted they could all speak in the affirmative. It became important that those engaged in the ministry might be able to appeal to the people, and say—“By God’s grace I have made my calling and election sure. I know that I am a child of God; I know that my sins are forgiven.” If any brother did not feel that he had made his calling and election sure, let him aim after it, and then they would become worthy ministers of the Lord Jesus, and worthy instruments for his work.—*The Christian.*

#### A CRIMINAL’S TESTIMONY.

Some time ago a Christian gentleman, who was visiting one of our county gaols, entered a “condemned cell,” where there was a criminal who was shortly to be executed. He gave the poor fellow a Bible. The man received it, and with deep feeling read several passages which were pointed out to him.

“Oh, sir,” said he at length, “if I had read this Book earlier, I should never have been where I am now.”