

by our feeble faith. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or even think, and is willing to supply all our need out of His riches in glory—Phil. iv. 19. He will open the windows of heaven, the treasures of rain and sunshine are His. Material and temporal blessings are as much and as directly from God as spiritual ones. He will destroy the devourer, that is the locust, and make the land prosperous and delightful, so that all shall see and recognize in it God's blessing.

What a grand and blessed promise is attached to giving. The willing consecration of our substance to God brings His blessing. There is no fear of impoverishment; God knows how to repay—Gen. xxiv. 35; Ps. cxli. 1-3; Prov. iii. 10; x. 22; xix. 17; xxii. 4; xxviii. 20; Rom. xi. 35; 2 Cor. ix. 6; 9; Heb. vi. 10.

III.—GOD'S JEWELS—Vers. 16-18.

The prophet describes these. They were those who were faithful amid all the corruption and wickedness he has just denounced.

God never leaves Himself without witnesses, even in the darkest times. And it is in this little remnant of faithful ones that the hope of the world lies. They feared the Lord, not with slavish terror, but with filial and trustful reverence. Thus their attitude and disposition towards God is described. Their attitude to one another is next brought forward. They spake to one another—about what, it was not necessary to say—God and His claims and promises, their land, its sins and needs. They spoke to encourage and strengthen one another. This is the Communion of the Saints. Christians ought to talk with one another more frequently concerning the things of the kingdom. There is great helpfulness in this converse and in all the social means of grace. The words they spake were heard also by God. Herein is the sympathy and tender interest expressed. And He remembered, kept a record of what He heard. The kings of Persia kept a book in which were recorded all who rendered services, that might be rewarded—Esther ii. 23; vi. 1, 2; Ez. iv. 15; Ps. lvi. 8; Isai. lxi. 6; Dan. vii. 10; Rev. xx. 12. Those who have God in their thoughts will be in God's thoughts. It is a great and blessed thing to be thought about by God—Ps. xl. 17. They are God's own, His peculiar treasure, for such is the meaning of the word translated "jewels"—Exod. xix. 5; Deut. vii. 6; xiv. 2; xxvi. 18; Ps. cxxxv. 4; Tit. ii. 14; 1 Peter ii. 9. And God will spare them, treat them with the tenderness and consideration with which a man acts towards his child. Such, says the prophet, are the people, the righteous between whom and the wicked there is a marked distinction, a distinction which shall at length be made manifest to all. They had complained that God made no difference between His friends and His foes. But they are assured that God never loses sight of them, is always thinking of them, even when He seems to have forgotten; and this will one day be made so plain that all the world shall know who are God's and who are not.

Are our names written in this remembrance, and in the Lamb's book of life? None but those written there can enter heaven—Ex. xxxii. 32; Ps. lxix. 28; Dan. xii. 1; Luke xx. 17; Phil. iv. 3; Rev. iii. 5; xiii. 8; xvii. 8; xx. 12; xxi. 27.

In the great day of separation and discernation, on which side shall we stand?—Matt. xxv. 33.

Around the Table.

PRAYING AND DOING.

"BLESS the poor children who haven't got any beds to-night," prayed a little boy, just before he lay down on his nice warm cot on a cold, windy night.

As he rose from his knees, his mother said: "You have just asked God to bless the poor children; what will you do to bless them?"

The boy thought a moment. "Why, if I had a hundred cakes, enough for all the family, I would give them some."

"But you have no cakes; what then are you willing to do?"

"When I get money enough to buy all the things I want, and have some over, I'll give them some."

"But you haven't enough money to buy all you want, and perhaps never will have; what will you do to bless the poor now?"

"I'll give them some bread."

"You have no bread—the bread is mine."

"Take things as they now are—you know what you have that is your own; what are you willing to give to help the poor?"

The boy thought again. "I'll give them half my money; I have seven pennies, I'll give them four. Wouldn't that be right?"

THINK A MOMENT, BOYS.

BOYS do a great many thoughtless and foolish things "for fun," that mortify them very much in the remembrance. To have been caught in somebody's melon patch, or taking a gate off its hinges, or crawling under a showman's tent, or playing any kind of a trick to the injury of another, and that has to be accomplished in a sneaking way, won't seem very smart if you ever grow to be a man of sense. You will hate it, and wonder that you could ever have thought it sharp.

Don't flatter yourself that the worst thing about a mean act is in being caught at it or found out. You can't be low, or vicious, or tricky, without somebody knowing it, and it does not take long for a good many to find out. It takes extraordinary talent and deception to have a good reputation concealing a bad character and it is never worth trying for. There was never yet a boy who was manly, honest and worthy of confidence, that people did not find him out and give him his due.

You can't afford to trifle with your reputation. If you descend to indecent and immoral conduct, it will soil your character and hurt your prospects, no matter what your friends may do for you, or how you may try to conceal from good people that you do these things. So, when you are tempted to any low, tricky, dishonest, mean or unworthy act, stop long enough to think what the effect is going to be upon your own soul, your own mind, your own reputation, and if that is your strongest motive, don't do it.

CHILDREN DOING GOOD.

I AM sure you will find out ways of showing kindness if you look for them. One strong lad, I saw the other day, carrying a heavy basket for a little tired girl. Another dear boy, I met leading a blind man who had lost his faithful dog.

An old lady sitting in her arm-chair by the fire once said, "My dear granddaughter there, is hands, feet and eyes to me."

"How so?"

"Why, she runs about so nimbly to do the work of the house; she brings me so willingly whatever I want; and when she has done, she sits down and reads to me nicely a chapter in the Bible."

One day a little girl came home from school quite happy to think she had been useful; for there was a schoolmate there in great trouble about the death of a baby-brother.

"And I put my cheek against hers," said her companion, "and I cried too, because I was sorry for her, and after a little while

she left off crying and said I had done her good."

The ways in which you can do kind actions are very, very many. Almost every hour of the day, if you have a kind heart, you will find some opportunity of doing a kind deed.

JUST "YES."

A LITTLE girl was very ill. One day her father, a poor drunkard, came to the bedside, and looked sadly down into her face. She tried to reach up her little hands to him, as she said, "Oh, papa, will you stop drinking?"

The father never spoke a word, but turned away and sat down in a chair by the fire. The mother came in, and saw the little girl's hands up, clasped together, and her eyes filled with tears.

"What is the matter? What are you crying about, dear?" said the mother.

"I'm just praying, mamma; I'm asking the Lord to keep papa from drinking any more."

A few hours later, those little hands were still, and the eyes closed in death.

How do you think that father felt? Do you think he could drink any more? This is what he said: "Oh, how I wish I had answered 'Yes,' when Maggie begged me to stop drinking. 'Yes' would have been such a comfort to the child."

LOVING AND TRUSTING.

GIVE Jesus your heart! What does that mean? It means, love Him. Why should you love Him? Because He has done so much for you. What has He done? He died that sinners might be saved. How are sinners saved? By trusting in the merits of Jesus' death. What do you understand by that? Relying upon His death as a sufficient punishment for your sins. If He has been punished for your sins, there is no necessity for your being punished for them too. So, you see, if you trust in Jesus, God will forgive you and save you; and if He forgives and saves you for Jesus' sake, you ought to love Jesus. Then give Him your heart.

WILLIE'S FIRST OATH.

A LITTLE boy came in from school the other day looking very unhappy. Was he hurt? No. Had he been in mischief? No. What was the matter with Willie? He had hardly spoken at supper time, and ate very little.

His mother asked him again, "Willie, what ails you, dear?"

"Mother, I swore. The minute I spoke it I was afraid of God, and ran home. Will God ever forgive me for taking His holy name in vain? I'd rather be dumb all my life long, than be a swearer," said Willie.