

In connexion with this high attainment, the grace of *patience* also, is peculiarly displayed. It is not through the influence of a transient impression upon the heart, but through an abiding faith, a faith accompanied by patient and persevering expectation, or, as the Apostle expresses it in the text, "through faith and patience," that the children of God inherit the promises. There is a kind of faith which many have, that leads them to begin, with apparent zeal, the Christian life, but which soon fails under the approach of trial or difficulty. Hence we read "the Just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."* And again, our Lord tells us there are those, who "for a while believe, but in time of temptation fall away."† On this account the Scripture lays peculiar stress upon the exercise of patience, in combination with our faith. Hence the precept, "let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."‡ Hence the promise, that God "will render to those who, by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory, honour and immortality; eternal life."§ Hence the beautiful illustration of this grace, by St. James, "Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and the latter rain; be ye also patient, establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."||

There are often peculiar circumstances which call more especially for the exercise of this grace, and where the exhibition of it, shews, in a remarkably strong and convincing light, the transcendent excellence of the Christian's principles. One situation where it is called for in a more than ordinary degree, is *under worldly opposition*. This trial is often hard to endure, especially to the young and inexpe-

* Heb. 10. 38. † Luke 8. 13. ‡ James 1. 4. § Rom. 2. 7. || James 5. 7, 8.