

THE POWER OF THE KING.

The subject for our consideration, beloved Christian friends, is “The Power of the King.” This subject is full of comfort for each one of us. All the children of God, while yet in the body, are most weak in themselves, though we can do all things, through Christ who strengthens us, by exercising faith in Him day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, seeking to lay hold on His strength, that we may have power. In ourselves we are most weak, by reason of the old corrupt nature remaining in us, and we shall remain in ourselves most weak, to the end of our course; therefore this subject is full of comfort, full of instruction, full of exhortation, full of warning, too, in a certain sense. But the great point, in the first place, is that we are,

ONE WITH THE KING.

There is no blessing to be had from the King, unless we are reconciled to God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Naturally we are alienated from God; naturally we are “dead in trespasses and sins;” naturally we are afraid of God, on account of a guilty conscience. There is therefore no such thing as drawing strength out of God, nor is there a possibility of drawing strength out of Him, until we are made alive spiritually, until we are regenerated. And how are we to be regenerated? By believing the Gospel; by faith in the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, should there be any here present (as peradventure there are), who are as yet not reconciled to God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have still a guilty conscience, who are still unforgiven—let me beseech and entreat such, with all earnestness to care about their souls, and no longer to go on without obeying the Gospel. Remember that we are commanded to obey the Gospel—that it does not rest with us whether we like it or do not like it, we are commanded to obey the Gospel; beloved, we are commanded to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The great sin of man in his natural state is, that he does not believe the Gospel. Should there be any here present who do not see that they are sinners, let me beseech them with all earnestness to read the first three chapters of the Epistle to the Romans; and if they do desire to find out that they are sinners, God the Holy Ghost will show to them through that epistle most assuredly what they are by nature; and should any here present see that they are sinners, but have not yet believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of their souls, yet desire to believe, if they could only just groan out a few words to God and say, “Have mercy upon me, O God, and help me to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,” God would help them to believe. It is through

this faith in the Lord Jesus that we are regenerated. According to that Word, “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus,” (Galatians iii. 26 and according to that Word, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ—is born of God,” (1 John v. i), viz., that the poor despised, rejected Jesus of Nazereth is the promised Saviour, the Messiah; millions may say it, but none believe it except the children of God. Then, if we are regenerated we have life—spiritual life—and through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we obtain the forgiveness of our sins, according to that Word in the 10th chapter of the acts of the Apostles, 43rd verse, where it is stated concerning the Lord Jesus. “To him give all the prophets witness, that through His name, whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.” Then, if we are regenerated—if we have obtained spiritual life, if the guilt is removed from our consciences, if we have become, through faith in Jesus, the children of God, then shall we enjoy the truth of “the power of the King.” But should there be any one here present (I repeat it), who is as yet not a believer in the Lord Jesus, then let me beseech and entreat him with earnestness to seek after forgiveness. Again, peradventure there are a few here who once enjoyed a cleansed conscience, who once walked in the ways of God, but who have now departed from Him. I desire that there may be none such present; but should this be the case, what have you to do? What you did at the first—to come as poor, miserable, guilty sinners, and confess your sins to God, exercising faith in the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, in which there is power to make you also clean again from your sins; the sins of backsliding, will be forgiven and taken away by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, just as the sins which were committed in our unregenerate state. Therefore see to it that you again obtain a cleansed conscience.—If there is power in the King, and we have a cleansed conscience (as by the grace of God I trust by far the greater part of us have), then oh, how precious to think that this

POWER IN THE KING IS TO HELP US IN OUR WEAKNESS.

The more we advance in the Divine life, and become acquainted with ourselves and with God, the more we see of the power of Satan and the corruptions within. The more we know of the temptations without, the more shall we be conscious day by day, and hour by hour, how weak we are in ourselves; and therefore we need the strong One to lean upon, to go to. That strong One we have in Jehovah Jesus. O the presciousness that we have not to do with a dead Christ! Though He was crucified and put into the grave on account of our numberless transgressions, yet He rose from the dead, He ascended up on high, and there at the right hand of God He is, for us who put our trust in Him, as the Liv-

ing One, as the Mighty One, who takes delight and joy continually in helping us amidst all our weaknesses and frailties. When Paul stood alone, and every one of the brethren, by reason of the danger, had forsaken him, there was One who stood with him, there was One who was at his side. There was the King in power that blessed One never leaves us, never forsakes us. Let us rejoice in the knowledge of this.

I desire now to make a very few remarks (on account of the shortness of the time) on the various portions of Scripture which are brought before us as the subject for our consideration. The first is in Malachi i. 14: "I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts."

REVERENCE.

It is deeply important to remember that, while we are at peace with God, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and while we are the children of God, and in fellowship with the Father and the Son, yet we are creatures and remain creatures, and therefore it becomes us to reverence God. On the one hand, they may not sufficiently walk in holy friendship with God! or, on the other hand, we may lose sight of the fact that we have to do with the Creator and Upholder of the universe, that He is a great King.

Let us not lose sight of this; for we must never forget that, while we are the children of God, and while we are partakers of the glory together with the Lord Jesus Christ, that yet we are creatures, and shall remain creatures, therefore it becomes us, as it were, to put off our shoes from our feet, and to consider that we are standing on holy ground. I affectionately press this on every one of my brethren and sisters in Christ; for the danger is lest we should lose sight of it, and in consequence make light of sin, by reason of our oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ.

POWER.

The second point which is suggested to us is, "Where the word of a King is, there is power." (Eccles. viii. 4) Most comforting and precious is this. For instance, with regard to all brethren and sisters in Christ who are engaged in service. "Where the word of the King is, there is power." What have we to do therefore? To pray for the word of the King, in order that there may be power; and therefore all who feel interested in the glory of God, and in the services of the Lord Jesus, should with earnestness seek, on behalf of all who are in any way labouring for the Lord, His blessing, that the Lord the King would speak the word, and then the world would feel His power. The word, though uttered

by mortal, sinful lips, if the King speaks through the instrument, will come in power. Let me affectionately beseech all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity to see to it that with earnestness they help all who in any way seek the spread of the truth. Every one of us may exceedingly help all the beloved brethren and sisters who are occupied in this way. Then with all the efforts that are now made to spread the truth, let us especially keep before us this, that the Lord will be sought for blessing, and that, if there is little prayer, there will be little result; whilst the more abundant prayer there is brought before the Lord, the more abundant blessing we may reckon on. Therefore all of us with earnestness should see to it that the word of the King, which is the word in power, may come through the instruments who are seeking to spread the truth as it is in Jesus. But more than this, we have mighty enemies to fight against, and we have no strength of our own. We may say, "Get thee behind me, Satan," but the word of the King we need in our weakness—in our helplessness—the word of the King we need to subdue our natural evil tendencies—the word of the King we need in order that the world may not have power over us; and for this the King will be sought and entreated, and the more earnestly we give ourselves to prayer, the more we may expect to hear the word of the King, so that the world, the flesh, and the devil will be kept down, to the honour, praise, and glory of God, and the confounding of Satan.

The next point on which I wish to make a few remarks is, "The sceptre of Thy kingdom is a right sceptre" (Psalm xlv. 6). In

RIGHTEOUSNESS

the King rules, and this is what we have to keep before us. It is not only that in the world to come, when the Lord Jesus Christ has returned, there will be the rule in righteousness, but even now He rules in righteousness, and that is practically what we often lose sight of. There is given to us that precious word, "All things work together for good to them that love God;" but very frequently, when great trials and afflictions come—when we have to suffer from the world, when we are in weakness of body, when we have to sustain bereavements, losses, and the like—then the question arises, by reason of our old nature, why all this? And if we are not on our guard, we shall be inclined to entertain hard thoughts about God. But "the sceptre of His kingdom is a right sceptre;" "In righteousness He rules;" "Everything works together for good to them that love God." In joy or sorrow, however we may be situated, everything tends to our real good and profit, and it becomes us to be satisfied in our inmost souls (no matter how God deals with us) that all is for the glory of God, and for our real

good and profit—all to make us increasingly to be conformed to the mind of God and to the Lord Jesus Christ; and therefore we ought to be satisfied with God’s dealings with us in the darkest hours—we should kiss the hand that smites us. Oh, how we can glorify God under these circumstances, and show to an ungodly world the reality of the things of God! We can let them see that we do not differ from them in the matter of creed only, but that we are really children of God—that we have a Father in heaven, that we have a Friend in heaven, that we do not profess simply to believe the Word of God, but that we verily do so—that we receive the statement that “all things work together for good to them that love God.” How could it be otherwise, but that all things work together for good to them that love God, since God gave the choicest gift He had to give in His only-begotten Son, and also promised that with Him He would freely give us all things? Therefore it becomes the children of God to be still, to be quiet, to know that God is dealing with them in everything, and to know that “all things work together for good to them that love God.” Whether we see it, or whether we do not see it, His dealings are already working for our good. We have to exercise faith in this, and to be satisfied with the statement; that the sceptre of the King is a right sceptre; that everything He doeth is in righteousness; everything He doeth is good and like Himself.

The next statement is, that “a King that sitteth on the throne of

JUDGMENT

scattereth away all evil with His eyes.” (Prov. xx. 8). That Satan shall be bruised under our feet is the blessed prospect before us—when by the power of the King he will have been bruised under our feet, when by the power of the King we shall have been completely delivered from everything contrary to the mind of God, so that when the will of God shall be presented to us, instantaneously in our inmost souls, we shall respond to the carrying out of His will. This time as not yet come, nevertheless we have in joyful anticipation to look forward to that day; and the more we can exercise faith with regard to the things to come—the realities of the heavenly day, the great day of the Lord Jesus Christ—the more shall we bring down the joys of heaven now into our souls already, the more spiritual power we shall have now; for, though we cannot have the office of apostles, we cannot say to what an extent we may, while yet in the body, overcome all the natural evil tendencies within us. The more we exercise faith in the power of the Lord Jesus, the more we practically use the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we make confession of our manifold failings and shortcomings, we may expect help to overcome what is contrary to the

mind of God. There is also connected with the subject particularly this joyful prospect: the little flock is mixed up with the world. At present we are not separated from all them that hate the Lord; but this will be the case in that day when the whole heavenly family will be united, and in separation from those who do not love the Lord Jesus Christ. Are there any here present who will be separated, then, from us? Shall we all meet again as we meet under this one roof now? None, none will meet with the people of God, but those who trust in the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

None, none will be found there in the glory, but those who were regenerated, before they were taken out of the world, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. O be in earnestness about this, if any be here present who are not yet believers in the Lord Jesus! for the power of the King will see to it, that none who are defiled enter the New Jerusalem. O the separation—the awful separation which will take place, it may be between parents and children, between brothers and sisters, between husbands and wives! O see to it that none be separated from the people of God, in that day! We can only meet again in one place, if we are all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; only then can we hear the word of the King, “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST’S TRIUMPH.

A few words on the last passage: “He must reign till He hath put all enemies under his feet.” (Cor. xv. 25). He must reign! O the comfort of this word, He must reign! Who will oppose the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Almighty God the Creator of the universe, the Upholder of the universe? Who will withstand Him—Who will keep Him from reigning? O the joy we have in this—Jesus must reign! And it is particularly comforting in these days, when we see infidelity and Popery spreading, and all kinds and forms of superstition and error. How comforting to know that the truth must prevail! Jesus will triumph at the last. “He must reign.” Every knee must bow before Him, every tongue must confess that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father. Bright and blessed prospect that thus it must be, that even those who now blasphemously speak against the Lord Jesus Christ will have to feel the power of the King, they will have to see that the King has power. He will triumph at the last. And now we who are united to the King, we who are of the little flock, most weak and helpless in ourselves, yet because we are united to the King who must reign—to the King who will triumph over every enemy—therefore we also, however weak and helpless in ourselves, through Jesus our Lord shall eminently triumph. That is the bright

and blessed prospect before us! I am a poor sinner, and nothing at all, let us say to ourselves, but my Lord Jesus will help me, my Lord Jesus will obtain the victory for me; let me only cling and cleave to Him, let me only look to Him, let me day by day seek to exercise faith in His power, and all will be well at the last. We shall have the victory over Satan, over the evil spirits, over everything that opposes itself to our blessed Lord.