

## The Mute Christian under the Smarting Rod

or,

*The Silent Soul with Sovereign Antidotes*

Thomas Brooks

### I. Epistle.

#### A. Reasons for study.

1. The afflicting hand of God hath been hard upon Christians.
  - a. *[Judges 14.9-10]- And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.*
  - b. *[Psalm 66.16]- Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.*
2. What is written is permanent; *litterascriptsamanet*, and spreads itself further by far, for time, place, and persons, than the voice can reach.
  - a. *[Hebrews 11.1]- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
  - b. *[Zechariah 1.6]- But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.*
3. Few men, if any, have iron memories. Bow soon is a sermon preached forgotten, when a sermon written remains!
4. Its marvelous suitableness and usefulness under these great turns and changes that have passed upon us.
  - a. *[Isaiah 28.25]- When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place.*
5. The good acceptance that other weak labours have found. God hath blessed them, not only to the conviction, the edification, confirmation, and consolation of many, but also to the conversion of many.
  - a. *[Romans 15.21]- But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.*
  - b. *[John 3.8]- The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*
6. That all afflicted and distressed Christians may have a proper salve for every sore, a proper remedy against every disease, at hand.
7. To satisfy some faithful friends.
  - a. *[1 Samuel 22.1-3]- David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men. And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.*

8. There hath not any authors or author come to my hand, that hath handled this subject as I have done; and therefore I do not know but it may be the more grateful and acceptable to the world;
    - a. *[1 Thessalonians 1.7-8]- So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.*
    - b. *[1 Corinthians 9.1-2]- Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.*
- B. A little good counsel, as that it may turn much to your soul's advantage.
1. Read and look up for a blessing.
    - a. *[1 Corinthians 3.6-7]- I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*
    - b. *[Micah 6.14]- Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.*
    - c. *[Haggai 1.6]- Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*
  2. Read and meditate. Meditation is the food of your souls, it is the very stomach and natural heat whereby spiritual truths are digested.
  3. Read, and try what thou readest; take nothing upon trust, but all upon trial.
    - a. *[Acts 17.11]- These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*
  4. Read and do, read and practise what you read, or else all your reading will do you no good.
    - a. *[John 7 16-17]- Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
    - b. *[Psalm 119.98-100]- Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*
    - c. *[John 4.7]- There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.*
    - d. *[Genesis 30.15]- And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes.*
  5. Read and apply. Reading is but the drawing of the bow, application is the hitting of the white.
  6. Read and pray.
    - a. *[2 Corinthians 12.15]- And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*
    - b. *[2 Corinthians 3.6]- Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

## II. The Mute Christian and the Smarting Rod.

### A. Proof text.

1. *[Psalm 39.9]- I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.*

B. The text in two parts

1. Exegetical or narrative. Prayer.

- a. The person speaking, and that is, David.
- b. The action and carriage of David under the hand of God.
- c. The reason of this humble and sweet carriage of his, in these words
- d. Doctine: *That it is the great duty and concernment of gracious souls to be mute and silent under the greatest afflictions, the saddest providences, and sharpest trials that they meet with in this world.*

1. What is the silence here meant?

a.) There is a stoical silence.

1.) *[Isaiah 26.10-11]- Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.*

2.) *[Romans 1.31]- Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

b.) There is a politic silence.

1.) *[1 Samuel 10.26-27]- And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought no presents. But he held his peace.*

c.) There is a foolish silence.

1.) *[Proverbs 17.28]- Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*

d.) There is a sullen silence.

1.) *[Mark 9.17-18]- And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.*

2.) *[1 Kings 21.4]- And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased*

e.) There is a forced silence.

1.) *[Jeremiah 3.10]- And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.*

2.) *[1 Kings 14.15]- For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.*

f.) There is a despairing silence. A despairing soul is *Magor-missabib*, a terror to himself; he hath a hell in his heart, and horror in his conscience.

1.) *[Jeremiah 2.25]- Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.*

2.) *[Jeremiah 18.12]- And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.*

3.) *[Psalm 77.1]- I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.*

g.) There is a prudent silence, a holy, and a gracious silence.

2. What a prudent silence, a holy, a gracious silence.
  - a.) A sight of God, and an acknowledgement of God as the author of all the afflictions that come upon its.
    - 1.) *[Job 1.21]- And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*
    - 2.) *[Leviticus 10.3]- Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.*
    - 3.) *[Genesis 14.8]- And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;*
    - 4.) *[Jonah 4.8-9]- And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.*
    - 5.) *[Amos 3.6]- Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?*
    - 6.) *[2 Samuel 16.11-12]- And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.*
  - b.) Holy, gracious apprehensions of the majesty, sovereignty, authority, and presence of that God under whose acting hand we are.
    - 1.) *[Habakkuk 2.20]- But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.*
    - 2.) *[Zephaniah 1.7]- Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.*
    - 3.) *[1 Peter 5.6]- Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*
    - 4.) *[Exodus 5.2]- And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*
    - 5.) *[Isaiah 26.11-12]- LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them. LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.*
    - 6.) *[Revelation 1.5]- And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*
  - c.) A holy quietness and calmness of mind and spirit, under the afflicting hand of God.
    - 1.) *[Psalm 62.1]- Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.*
    - 2.) *[Psalm 39.3]- My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue,*
    - 3.) *[Luke 21.19]- In your patience possess ye your souls.*
    - 4.) *[Isaiah 29.13]- Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have*

*removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*

- 5.) *[Matthew 15.8-9]- This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
  - 6.) *[Psalm 94.17-19]- Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.*
  - 7.) *[Psalm 119.49-50]- In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.*
- d.) An humble, justifying, clearing and acquitting of God of all blame, rigour and injustice, in all the afflictions he brings upon us.
- 1.) *[Psalm 51.4]- Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*
  - 2.) *[1 Corinthians 11.32]- But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
  - 3.) *[Psalm 119.75,137]- I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.*
  - 4.) *[2 Samuel 16.10]- And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?*
  - 5.) *[1 Samuel 12.17-18]- Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king. So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.*
  - 6.) *[Daniel 9.12]- And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.*
  - 7.) *[Nehemiah 9.33]- Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:*
  - 8.) *[Lamentations 1.18]- The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.*
- e.) A holy silence takes in gracious, blessed, soul-quieting conclusions about the issue and event of those afflictions that are upon us.
- 1.) *[Lamentations 3.27-34]- It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach. For the LORD will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth.*
  - 2.) That they shall work for their good.
    - a.) *[Job 23.10]- But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

- b.) *[Isaiah 1.25]- And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:*
- c.) *[Hosea 5.15]- I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.*
- d.) *[Hosea 6.1-3]- Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*
- e.) *[Psalm 119.67,71]- Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*
- f.) *[Galatians 6.14]- But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*
- g.) *[Psalm 131.1-3]- Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child. Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever.*
- h.) *[Job 33.14-17]- For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.*
- i.) *[Zechariah 13.8-9]- And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*
- j.) *[Romans 5.3-4]- And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*
- k.) *[Hebrews 12.10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
- l.) *[Hosea 2.14]- Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.*
- m.) *[Isaiah 26.16]- LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.*
- n.) *[Hosea 5.15]- I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.*
- o.) *[John 14.1-3]- Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- p.) *[Romans 8.17-18]- And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time*

- are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
- q.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16-18]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
- r.) *[Hebrews 10.34]- For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*
- s.) *[Hebrews 13.3]- Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.*
- t.) *[Revelation 3.19]- As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*
- 3.) They shall keep them humble and low.
- a.) *[Job 13.5-7]- O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom. Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips. Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?*
- b.) *[Acts 9.4-6]- And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*
- 4.) The rod shall not always lie upon the back of the righteous.
- a.) *[Isaiah 17.13]- The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.*
- b.) *[Isaiah 26.20]- Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*
- c.) *[John 16.21]- A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*
- 5.) Their morning shall last but till morning. God will turn their winter's night into a summer's day, their sighing into singing, their grief into gladness, their mourning into music, their bitter into sweet, their wilderness into a paradise.
- a.) *[Habakkuk 3.2]- O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*
- b.) *[Psalm 30.5]- For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*
- 6.) For he doth not afflict willingly (or as the Hebrew hath it, 'from his heart').
- a.) *[Isaiah 28.21]- For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.*

- b.) *[Micah 7.18]- Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*
- c.) *[Hosea 11.8]- How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.*
- d.) *[Jeremiah 31.18-20]- I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.*
- f.) A strict charge, a solemn, command, that conscience lays upon the soul to be quiet and still.
- 1.) *[Psalm 37.7]- Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*
- 2.) *[Matthew 8.26]- And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*
- 3.) *[Psalm 27.14]- Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*
- 4.) *[Acts 19.40]- For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.*
- g.) A surrendering, a resigning of ourselves to God, whilst we are under his afflicting hand.
- 1.) *[Isaiah 6.8]-Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*
- 2.) *[I Kings 20.4]- And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.*
- h.) A patient waiting upon the Lord under our afflictions until deliverance comes:
- 1.) *[Psalm 60.1-3]- O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again. Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.*
- 2.) *[Psalm 62.5]- My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.*
- 3.) *[James 5.7-8]- Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*
3. What a holy, a prudent silence under affliction doth not exclude.
- a.) A sense and feeling of our afflictions.
- 1.) *[Psalm 39.9-11]- I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it. Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.*

*When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.*

- 2.) *[Isaiah 26.9-11]- With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.*
  - 3.) *[Isaiah 42.24-25]- Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.*
- b.) Prayer for deliverance out of our afflictions.
- 1.) *[James 5.13]- Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 50.15]- And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*
  - 3.) *[Jonah 1.5-6]- Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.*
- c.) Men's being kindly affected and afflicted with their sins as the meritorious cause of all their sorrows and sufferings.
- 1.) *[Job 40.4-6]- Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,*
  - 2.) *[Micah 7.9]- I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.*
  - 3.) *[2 Samuel 24.17]- And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.*
- d.) The teaching and instructing of others when we are afflicted.
- 1.) *[Philemon 10]- I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*
  - 2.) *[Philippians 1.7,13-14]- Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

- 3.) *[1 Corinthians 2.9]- But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*
  - 4.) *[Proverbs 25.11]- A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*
  - 5.) *[Ecclesiastes 10.12]- The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.*
  - 6.) *[Psalm 37.30]- The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.*
  - 7.) *[Song of Solomon 4.11]- Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.*
  - 8.) *[Proverbs 12.18]- There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.*
  - 9.) *[Numbers 10.10]- Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.*
- e.) Moderate mourning or weeping under the afflicting hand of God.
- 1.) *[Isaiah 38.3,5]- And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 56.8]- Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?*
  - 3.) *[Lamentations 2.18]- Their heart cried unto the LORD, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.*
  - 4.) *[Psalm 55.2]- Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise;*
  - 5.) *[Psalm 38.6]- I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.*
  - 6.) *[Job 30.26-32]- When I looked for good, then evil came unto me: and when I waited for light, there came darkness. My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me. I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in the congregation. I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls. My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat. My harp also is turned to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep.*
  - 7.) *[Ecclesiastes 3.4]- A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*
  - 8.) *[Psalm 43.2]- For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*
  - 9.) *[Exodus 33.3-6]- Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. And the*

*children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.*

- f.) Sighing, groaning, or roaring under afflictions.
- 1.) *[Exodus 2.23]- And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.*
  - 2.) *[Job 3.24]- For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.*
  - 3.) *[Psalm 38.8-9]- I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.*
  - 4.) *[Psalm 102.5]- By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.*
  - 5.) *[Psalm 32.2]- Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*
- g.) The use of any just or lawful means, whereby persons may be delivered out of their afflictions.
- 1.) *[Matthew 10.23]- But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*
  - 2.) *[Acts 12.5-6,12]- Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.*
  - 3.) *[Acts 9.23-25]- And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.*
  - 4.) *[2 Thessalonians 3.1-2]- Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*
  - 5.) *[James 5.14-15]- Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*
  - 6.) *[Isaiah 38.18-21]- For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth. The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD. For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaister upon the boil, and he shall recover.*
- h.) A just and sober complaining against the authors, contrivers, abettors, or instruments of our afflictions:
- 1.) *[2 Timothy 4.14]- Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*

- 2.) *[2 Corinthians 11.24-25]- Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*
  - 3.) *[Exodus 2.23-25]- And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*
  - 4.) *[Isaiah 37.20-21]- Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only. Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria:*
  - 5.) *[Genesis 49.23-24]- The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)*
  - 6.) *[Psalm 50.21]- These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.*
  - 7.) *[Psalm 69.20,30]- Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*
  - 8.) *[Psalm 132.14-18]- This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.*
4. The reasons of the point.
- a.) That they may the better hear and understand the voice of the rod.
    - 1.) *[Micah 6.8-9]- He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? The LORD's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.*
    - 2.) *[Jeremiah 4.18]- Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.*
    - 3.) *[Romans 6.20-21]- For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*
    - 4.) *[Hosea 2.7]- And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.*
    - 5.) *[Lamentations 3.40]- Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.*
    - 6.) *[Romans 14.6-8]- He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to*

*himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*

- 7.) *[Galatians 6.18]- Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*
- b.) That they may difference and distinguish themselves from the men of the world, who usually fret and fling, mutter or murmur, curse and swagger, when they are under the afflicting hand of God:
- 1.) *[Isaiah 8.21-22]- And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward. And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness.*
  - 2.) *[Isaiah 59.11]- We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.*
  - 3.) *[Genesis 4.13]- And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.*
  - 4.) *[Isaiah 51.20]- Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God.*
  - 5.) *[Jeremiah 51.37-38]- And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant. They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.*
  - 6.) *[Amos 3.9]- Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof.*
  - 7.) *[Revelations 16.9-12]- And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*
  - 8.) *[Isaiah 57.20]- But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.*
- c.) That they may be conformable to Christ their head, who was dumb and silent under his sorest trials:
- 1.) *[Isaiah 53.7]- He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*
  - 2.) *[I Peter 2.21-23]- For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*
- d.) It is ten thousand times a greater judgment and affliction, to be given to a fretful spirit, a froward spirit, a muttering spirit under an affliction, then it is to be afflicted.

- 1.) *[1 Peter 5.8]- Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
- e.) A holy, a prudent silence under afflictions, under miseries, doth best capacitate and fit the afflicted for the receipt of miseries.
- 1.) *[Hebrews 11.11]- Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*
- 2.) *[James 3.18]- And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*
- 3.) *[Psalm 127.2]- It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*
- 4.) *[Exodus 6.6-9]- Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD. And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.*
- f.) It is fruitless, it is bootless to strive, to contest or contend with God.
- 1.) *[Jeremiah 7.19]- Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?*
- 2.) *[1 Corinthians 10.22]- Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?*
- 3.) That it is ill provoking God to wrath, because he is stronger than we.
- 4.) That though God be stronger than we, yet there are those who provoke him to wrath; and certainly there are none that do more provoke him than those who fume and fret when his hand is upon them.
- g.) They shall cross and frustrate Satan's great design and expectation.
- 1.) *[Revelation 12.10]- And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*
- h.) That they may be conformable to those noble patterns that are set before them by other saints, who have been patient and silent under the smarting rod.
- 1.) *[Leviticus 10.3]- Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.*
- 2.) *[1 Samuel 3.18]- And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.*
- 3.) *[2 Samuel 16.10-12]- And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? and David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.*

- 4.) *[Job 1.21-22]- And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*
  - 5.) *[Isaiah 36.11-12]- Then said Eliakim and Shebna and Joah unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall. But Rabshakeh said, Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?*
  - 6.) *[Acts 21.12-15]- And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done. And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem.*
  - 7.) *[Hebrews 12.1]- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
5. The application to our own souls.
- a.) This looks sourly and sadly upon murmurers, upon such as do nothing but mutter and murmur under the afflicting hand of God.
  - b.) This truth looks sourly upon those that fret, chafe, and vex when they are under the afflicting hand of God.
    - 1.) *[Isaiah 8.21]- And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward.*
    - 2.) *[Proverbs 19.3]- The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.*
    - 3.) *[2 Kings 6.33]- And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?*
    - 4.) *[Psalm 37.1,7-8]- Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.*
    - 5.) *[Exodus 5.2]- And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*
    - 6.) *[Jonah 4.8]- And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.*
    - 7.) *[Ezekiel 16.43]- Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.*
  - c.) This truth looks sourly upon those who charge God foolishly in the day of their adversity.

- 1.) *[Lamentations 3.39]- Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?*
  - 2.) *[Genesis 3.12]- And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*
  - 3.) *[Job 1.22]- In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*
- d.) This truth looks sourly and sadly upon such as *will not be silent nor satisfied under the afflicting hand of God, except the Lord will give them the particular reasons why he lays his hand upon them.*
- 1.) *[Jeremiah 15.18]- Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?*
  - 2.) *[Job 7.20]- I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?*
  - 3.) *[Romans 9.20]- Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*
  - 4.) *[Daniel 4.3,36]- How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.*
  - 5.) *[Ecclesiastes 8.4]- Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?*
  - 6.) *[Revelation 1.5]- And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*
  - 7.) *[Hebrews 12.10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
  - 8.) *[Isaiah 1.25]- And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:*
  - 9.) *[Psalm 119.67,71]- Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*
  - 10.) *[1 Corinthians 11.32]- But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
  - 11.) *[Deuteronomy 29.29]- The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*
- e.) This truth looks sourly and sadly upon those who, instead of being silent and mute under their afflictions, use all sinful shifts and ways to shift themselves out of their troubles; who care not though they break with God, and break with men, and break with their consciences, so they may but break off the chains that are upon them; who care not by what means the prison door is opened, so they may but escape; nor by what hands their bolts are knocked off, so they may be at liberty.
- 1.) *[Job 36.21]- Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.*
  - 2.) There is infinitely more evil in the least sin, then there is in the greatest miseries and afflictions that can possibly come upon you; yea, there is more evil in the least sin than there is in all the troubles that ever come upon the world, yea, than there is in all the miseries and torments of hell.

- 3.) Consider it is an impossible thing for any to sin themselves out of their troubles.
- a.) *[Isaiah 33.14]- The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?*
- 4.) As it is an impossible thing, so it is a very prejudicial, a very dangerous thing, to attempt to sin yourselves out of your troubles;
- 5.) It is a very ignoble and unworthy thing to go to stab yourselves out of your troubles and straits.
- 6.) Sinful shifts and means God hath always cursed and blasted.
- a.) *[2 Kings 5.22-27]- And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.*
- f.) That your very attempting to sin and shift yourselves out of troubles and afflictions, will cost you dear.
- 1.) *[Matthew 26.75]- And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*
- g.) Exhortations.
- 1.) The greatness, sovereignty, majesty, and dignity of God, and let that move thee to silence.
- a.) *[Jeremiah 10.7]- Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.*
- b.) *[Jeremiah 5.22]- Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?*
- c.) *[Psalm 46.8-10]- Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*
- d.) *[Zephaniah 1.7]- Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.*

- e.) *[Revelation 5.5]- And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*
  - f.) *[Habakkuk 2.20]- But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.*
  - g.) *[Exodus 14.13-14]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*
- 2.) That all your afflictions, troubles, and trials shall work for your good:
- a.) *[Romans 8.28]- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
  - b.) *[Psalm 25.10]- All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*
  - c.) *[Deuteronomy 26.16]- This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.*
- 3.) That a holy silence in that excellent precious grace, that lends a hand of support to every grace,
- a.) *[Romans 15.4]- For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*
- 4.) That you have deserved greater and heavier afflictions then those you are under,
- a.) *[Lamentations 3.39]- Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?*
  - b.) *[Micah 7.7-9]- Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.*
  - c.) *[1 Kings 12.14]- And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.*
- 5.) A quiet silent spirit is of great esteem with God.
- a.) *[1 Peter 3.4]- But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*
  - b.) There is a mutual quietness, which proceeds from a good temper and constitution of body.
  - c.) There is a moral quietness, which proceeds from good education and breeding, which flows from good injunctions, instructions, and examples.
  - d.) There is an artificial quietness; some have an art to imprison their passions, and to lay a law of restraint upon their anger and wrath, when they are all in a flame within:

- e.) There is a gracious quietness, which is of the Spirit's infusion.
- 1.) *[Galatians 5.22-25]- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*
- 6.) That if you sit not silent and quiet under your greatest troubles and your sorest trials, you will be found fighters against your own prayers.
- a.) *[Matthew 6.10]- Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*
- h.) A holy silence under the heaviest burdens, the greatest afflictions, the saddest providences and changes, will make all tolerable and easy to a Christian.
- 1.) *[Micah 7.7-10]- Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness. Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 92.1,6]- It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.*
- i.) That a holy silence under afflictions will be your best armour of proof against those temptations that addictions may expose you to.
- 1.) *[James 1.12]- Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*
  - 2.) *[James 4.7]- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
  - 3.) *[1 Peter 5.9]- Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*
  - 4.) Affliction is called temptation.
    - a.) Temptation tries what metal a Christian is made of, so do afflictions.
    - b.) Satan usually hath a great hand in all the temptations that come upon us, so he hath a great hand in all the afflictions that befall us; as you see in that great instance of Job.
    - c.) Temptations drive men to God, so do afflictions, but mainly because Satan chooses times of afflictions as the fittest seasons for his temptations.
      - 1.) *[2 Corinthians 12.7-8]- And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*
      - 2.) *[Isaiah 26.16]- LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.*
      - 3.) *[Hosea 5.15]- I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.*

- 4.) *[Deuteronomy 25.17-18]- Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*
- j.) That holy silence under afflictions and trials will give a man a quiet and peaceable possession of his own soul:
- 1.) *[Luke 21.19]- In your patience possess ye your souls.*
  - 2.) *[Proverbs 16.32]- He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*
- k.) The commands and instructions that God in his word has laid upon you to be silent, to be mute and quiet, under all the troubles, trials, and changes that have or may pass upon you:
- 1.) *[Zechariah 2.13]- Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.*
  - 2.) *[Isaiah 41.1]- Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.*
  - 3.) *[Habakkuk 2.20]- But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.*
  - 4.) *[Psalm 46.10]- Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*
  - 5.) *[Psalm 4.4]- Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.*
  - 6.) *[Exodus 14.13]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*
  - 7.) *[2 Chronicles 20.17]- Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.*
  - 8.) *[Job 37.14]- Harken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.*
  - 9.) *[1 Kings 13.24]- And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.*
  - 10.) *[2 Samuel 13.28-29]- Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.*
- l.) That mercy is nearest, deliverance and salvation is at hand, when a Christian stands still, when he sits quiet and silent under his greatest troubles and his sorest trials.
- 1.) *[Exodus 14.13,24]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,*

- 2.) *[Psalm 39.9]- I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.*
- 3.) *[2 Samuel 15.25-26]-And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation: But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.*
- 4.) *[2 Samuel 16.5-14]- And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man. And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day. And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.*
- m.) The heinous and dangerous nature of murmuring.
- 1.) Murmuring speaks out many a root of bitterness to be strong in thy soul.
- a.) *[Hebrews 3.12]- Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*
- b.) *[Hebrews 12.1]- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
- c.) *[Exodus 15.24]- And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?*
- d.) *[Exodus 16.7-8]- And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.*
- e.) *[Numbers 13.32-33]- And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*
- f.) *[Numbers 14.1-3]- And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole*

- congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*
- g.) *[John 6.41-42]- The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.*
- h.) *[Psalm 106 24-25]- Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.*
- i.) *[Psalm 77.19-20]- Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*
- j.) *[Isaiah 26.4]- Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*
- 2.) The Holy Ghost hath set a brand of infamy upon murmurers. He hath stigmatised them for ungodly persons:
- a.) *[Jude 15-16]- To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.*
- b.) *[1 Kings 12.11,14]- And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.*
- 3.) Murmuring is the mother-sin; it is the mother of harlots, the mother of all abominations; a sin that breeds many other sins, viz., disobedience, contempt, ingratitude, impatience, distrust, rebellion, cursing, carnality; yea, it charges God with folly, yea, with blasphemy.
- a.) *[Numbers 16.41]- But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.*
- b.) *[Numbers 17.10]- And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.*
- c.) *[Judges 17.2]-And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.*
- d.) *[1 Kings 22.31]- But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.*
- e.) *[Ephesians 6.10-11]- Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
- f.) *[Isaiah 37.38]- And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him*

- with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.*
- g.) *[Psalm 137.8-9]- O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.*
- 4.) Murmuring is a God-provoking sin; it is a sin that provokes God not only to afflict, but also to destroy a people:
- a.) *[Numbers 14.27-29]- How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.*
- b.) *[1 Corinthians 10.10]- Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*
- c.) *[Hebrews 12.29]- For our God is a consuming fire.*
- 5.) Murmuring is the devil's image, sin and punishment.
- a.) *[Job 1.8-9]- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*
- 6.) Murmuring is a mercy-embittering sin, an mercy-souring sin.
- a.) *[Job 6.6]- Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?*
- b.) *[Deuteronomy 32.23]- I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them.*
- c.) *[Proverbs 27.7]- The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.*
- 7.) Murmuring is a mercy-destroying sin, a mercy-murdering sin.
- a.) *[Numbers 14.30]- Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*
- b.) *[Deuteronomy 31.16-17]- And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?*
- c.) *[Numbers 14.1-3]- And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

- d.) *[Deuteronomy 14.26-29]- And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household, And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.*
- 8.) Murmuring unfits the soul for duty.
- a.) *[Exodus 6.7-10]- And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD. And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*
- b.) *[1 Corinthians 7.33-35]- But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.*
- c.) *[Proverbs 3.17]- Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.*
- d.) *[Psalm 40.12]- For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*
- e.) *[Isaiah 26.9-11]- With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.*
- 9.) Murmuring unmans a man.
- a.) *[Isaiah 5.18-20]- Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
- b.) *[Lamentations 5.16]- The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!*

- c.) *[Isaiah 3.8]- For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.*
- d.) *[Jeremiah 7.6.]- If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:*
- 10.)Murmuring is a time-destroying sin.
- a.) *[Ephesians 5.16]- Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*
- b.) *[Revelation 2.21,25]- And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*
- c.) *[1 Peter 4.2]- That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*
- 11.)Of all men in the world, you have least cause, yea, no cause, to be murmuring and muttering under any dispensation that you meet with in this world. Is not God thy portion?
- 12.)Murmuring makes the life of man invisible miserable.
6. Objections to being silent and mute under the afflicting hand of God.
- a.) Objection 1: How shall I come to understand that these strokes are the strokes of love, that these wounds are the wounds of a friend?
- 1.) If thy heart be drawn more out to the Lord by thy afflictions, then the afflictions are in love.
- 2.) If you are more careful and studious how to glorify God in the affliction, and how to be kept from sinning under the affliction, than how to get out of the affliction, then certainly your affliction is in love,
- a.) *[Daniel 3.16-17]- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*
- b.) *[Daniel 5.16-17]- And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.*
- c.) *[John 7.7-10]- The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.*
- 3.) If you enjoy the special presence of God with your spirits in your affliction, then your affliction is in love.
- a.) *[Psalm 23.4-6]- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

- b.) *[Isaiah 43.2]- When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*
- c.) *[Psalm 94.19]- In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.*
- d.) *[Psalm 68.14]- When the Almighty scattered kings in it, it was white as snow in Salmon.*
- e.) *[2 Timothy 4.22]- The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.*
- f.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*
- g.) *[Hebrews 13.5-6]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*
- 4.) If by your affliction you are made more conformable to Christ in his virtues, there certainly your afflictions are in love.
- a.) *[1 Peter 2.9]- But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;*
- b.) *[Isaiah 26.8-10]- Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.*
- c.) *[Jeremiah 6.3]- The shepherds with their flocks shall come unto her; they shall pitch their tents against her round about; they shall feed every one in his place.*
- d.) *[Amos 6.1]- Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!*
- 5.) If by outward afflictions thy soul be brought more under the inward teachings of God, doubtless thy afflictions are love.
- a.) *[Job 34.31-32]- Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more: That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.*
- b.) *[Psalm 94.12]- Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;*
- 6.) If God suit your burdens to your backs, your trials to your strength, according to that golden promise.
- a.) *[1 Corinthians 10.13]- There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
- b.) *[Isaiah 27.8]- In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.*

- c.) *[Jeremiah 30.11]- For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*
- d.) *[Jeremiah 46.28]- Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.*
- e.) *[Genesis 49.23-24]- The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)*
- 7.) If thou art willing to lie in the furnace till thy dross be consumed; if thou art willing that the plaster should lie on, though it smart, till the cure be wrought; if thou art willing that the physic should work, though it makes thee sick, till the humours be expelled; all is in love.
- a.) *[Job 23.10]- But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*
- b.) *[Micah 7.9]- I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.*
- 8.) If you live a life of faith in your afflictions, then your afflictions are in love.
- a.) *[Isaiah 43.2-3]- When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*
- b.) *[Isaiah 41.10]- Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*
- c.) *[Psalm 50.15]- And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*
- d.) *[Isaiah 1.25]- And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:*
- e.) *[Hebrews 12.10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
- f.) *[Hosea 2.14]- Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.*
- g.) *[Hebrews 13.5-6]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. o that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*
- h.) *[Zechariah 13.9]- And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*
- i.) *[Romans 8.28]- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

- j.) *[Deuteronomy 32.13]- He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;*
- k.) *[1 Corinthians 1.20]- Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*
- b.) *Objection 2: The Lord hath smitten me in my nearest and dearest comforts and contentments, and how then can I hold my peace? God hath taken away a husband, a wife, a child, an only child, a bosom-friend, and how then can I be silent?*
- 1.) *If God did riot strike thee in that ardency, which was near and dear unto thee, it would not amount to an affliction.*
- 2.) *The best mercy is not too good for the best God.*
- a.) *[Malachi 1.13-14]- Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto theLORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.*
- 3.) *Your near and dear mercies were first the Lord's before they were yours, and always the Lord's more then they were yours.*
- a.) *[1 Chronicles 29.14]- But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.*
- b.) *[Job 9.12]- Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?*
- c.) *[Daniel 4.35]- And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*
- d.) *[Isaiah 14.9]- Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.*
- 4.) *It may be thou hast not made a happy improvement of thy near and dear mercies whilst thou enjoyedst them.*
- a.) *[Romans 12.1]- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
- b.) *[Matthew 25.28-31]- Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*
- 5.) *If in this case God had made thee a precedent to others, thou must have held thy peace; how much more, then, should thou be mute where God has made many others precedents to thee!*
- a.) *[Leviticus 10.1-2]- And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and*

*offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*

- 6.) It may be thy sins have been much about thy near and dear enjoyments.
- a.) *[Luke 2.7]- And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*
  - b.) *[Genesis 49.4]- Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*
  - c.) *[Ezekiel 23.17,21]- And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them. Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy teats by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth.*
  - d.) *[Song of Solomon 3.7]- Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.*
  - e.) *[Exodus 12.31]- And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said.*
- 7.) You have no cause to murmur because of the loss of such near and dear enjoyments, considering those snore noble and spiritual mercies and favours that thou still enjoyest.
- a.) *[Genesis 42.36]- And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.*
  - b.) *[1 John 3.9]- Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
  - c.) *[Ephesians 1.3-4]- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
  - d.) *[Colossians 3.11]- Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*
- 8.) If God, by smiting thee in thy nearest and dearest enjoyments, shall put thee upon a more thorough smiting and mortifying of thy dearest sins, thou hast no cause to murmur.
- a.) *[Psalm 18.23]- I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.*
  - b.) *[Hebrews 12.1]- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
- 9.) That the Lord has many ways to make up the loss of a near and dear mercy to thee;
- a.) *[Matthew 19.27-30]- Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have*

*followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*

b.) *[Psalm 89.26]- He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.*

c.) *[2 Samuel 23.5]- Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*

10.) How canst thou tell but that which thou callest a near and dear mercy, if it had been continued longer to thee, might have proved the greatest cross, the greatest calamity and misery that ever thou didst meet with in this world?

a.) *[2 Samuel 12.16]- David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.*

11.) Thou canst not tell how bad thy heart might have proved under the enjoyment of those near and dear mercies that now thou hast lost.

12.) Get thy heart more affected with spiritual losses, and then thy soul will be less afflicted with those temporal losses that thou mournest under.

a.) *[1 Samuel 15.14]- And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?*

c.) Objection 3: Oh, but my afflictions, my troubles have been long upon me! and how then can I hold my peace? Were they but of yesterday, I would be quiet; but they are of a long continuance; and therefore how can I be silent?

1.) Thou canst not date thy afflictions from the first day of thy pollution.

a.) *[Psalm 51.5]- Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

2.) Thy afflictions are not so long as the afflictions of other saints.

a.) *[Job 21.25]- And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.*

3.) The longer thy affliction has been, the sweeter will heaven be to thee at last.

a.) *[Luke 22.18]- For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.*

4.) They are not long, but short, if compared to that eternity of glory that is reserved for the saints.

a.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16-18]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

5.) The longer you have been afflicted, the more in spiritual experiences you have been enriched.

- a.) *[2 Corinthians 1.5]- For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*
- b.) *[James 2.5]- Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*
- c.) *[Psalm 4.6]- There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.*
- d.) *[Isaiah 5.8]- Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!*
- 6.) Long afflictions sometimes are but preparations to long-lived mercies.
- a.) *[Isaiah 54.11-14]- O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.*
- b.) *[Isaiah 60.14,16]- The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee; The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.*
- 7.) The longer a saint is afflicted on earth, the more glorious he shall shine in heaven; the more affliction here, the more glory hereafter.
- a.) The more gracious souls are afflicted, the more their graces are exercised and increased.
- 1.) *[Hebrews 12.10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
- 2.) *[Romans 5.3-5]- And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*
- b.) The longer a grandsons soul is afflicted, the more his religious duties will be multiplied.
- 1.) *[Psalm 109.4]- For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.*
- 2.) *[Isaiah 26.16]- LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.*
- 3.) *[1 Corinthians 15.58]- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
- 4.) *[2 Corinthians 9.6]- But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

5.) *[Jeremiah 35.19]- Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.*

c.) The longer any saint is afflicted, the more into the image and likeness of Christ he will be transformed.

8.) The longer they have been, the greater cause thou hast to be silent and patient, for impatience will but lengthen out the day of the sorrows.

9.) God's time is the best time; mercy is never nearer.

a.) *[Acts 27.21-22,41-44]- But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.*

10.) They shall last no longer than there is need, and then they shall work for thy good.

a.) *[1 Peter 1.6]- Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

d.) Objection 4: I would be mute and silent under my afflictions, but my afflictions daily multiply and increase upon me; like the waves of the sea, they come rolling over the neck of one another, &c.; and how then can I hold my peace? How can I lay my hand upon my mouth, when the sorrows of my heart are daily increased?

1.) Thy afflictions are not so many as thy sins.

a.) *[Psalm 40.12]- For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*

b.) No Christian can number his sins;

c.) No Christian can number his divine favours;

d.) No Christian can number the joys and pleasures that be at Christ's right hand;

e.) *[1 Kings 20.27]- And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country.*

2.) If such should not be mute and silent under their afflictions, whose afflictions are increased and multiplied upon them, there are none in the world who will be found mute and silent under their afflictions: for certainly there are none who do not find the waters of affliction to grow daily upon them.

a.) *[1 Samuel 15.14]- And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?*

b.) *[Ezekiel 47.1,20]- Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the*

*house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side.*

- 3.) They are not so many as God might have exercised thee with.
  - 4.) Thy afflictions are not so many as thy mercies, nay, they are not to be named in the day wherein thy mercies are spoken of.
    - a.) *[Ecclesiastes 7.14]- In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.*
  - 5.) If you cast up a just and righteous account, you will find that they are not so many as the affections that have befallen other saints.
  - 6.) Not so many as attended our Lord Jesus; whose whole life, from the cradle to the cross, was nothing but a life of sufferings.
    - a.) *[John 8.57]- Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?*
  - 7.) Muttering and murmuring will but add to the number.
  - 8.) Though they are many, yet they are not so many as the joys, the pleasures, the delights that be at Christ's right hand.
- e.) Objection 5: My afflictions are very great, how then can I hold my peace? Though they were many, yet if they were not great, I would be mute, but alas! they are very great. Oh! how can I be silent under them? How can I now lay my hand upon my mouth?
- 1.) Though they are great, yet they are not so great as thy sins, thyself being judge; therefore hold thy peace:
    - a.) *[Ezra 9.13]- And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;*
  - 2.) It may be they are not great, if you look upon them with Scripture spectacles.
    - a.) *[1 Peter 5.10]- But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*
    - b.) *[Isaiah 54.7-8]- For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*
    - c.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16-18]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
    - d.) *[Genesis 21.17-19]- And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.*

- 3.) The greater thy afflictions are, the nearer is deliverance to thee.
- a.) *[Deuteronomy 32.36]- For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.*
  - b.) *[John 2.6-11]- And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*
- 4.) They are not great, if compared to the glory that shall be revealed.
- a.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16-18]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
  - b.) *[Romans 8.18]- For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
- 5.) They are not great, if compared with the afflictions and torments of such of the damned, who where they were it this world, never sinned at so high a rate as thou hast done.
- 6.) If thy afflictions are so great; then what madness and folly will it be for thee to make them greater by murmuring!
- a.) *[Numbers 14.1-2,44-45]- And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.*
  - b.) *[1 Corinthians 10.9-11]- Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*
- f.) Objection 6: Oh! but my afflictions are greater than other men's afflictions are; and how then can I be silent? Oh! there is no affliction to my affliction; how can I hold my peace?
- 1.) It may be thy sins are greater than other men's sins.

- a.) *[Jeremiah 3.11-12]- And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.*
- 2.) It may be thou art under some present distemper that disenables thee to make a right judgment of the different dealings of God with thyself and others.
- 3.) It may be that the Lord sees that it is very needful that thy afflictions should be greater than others.
- a.) *[Jeremiah 30.11]- For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*
- b.) *[Jeremiah 46.28]- Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.*
- c.) *[Isaiah 27.8]-In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.*
- 4.) Though thy afflictions are greater than this and that particular man's afflictions, yet doubtless there are many thousands in the world whose afflictions are greater than thine.
- a.) *[Hebrews 12.4]- Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*
- 5.) As thy afflictions are greater than other men's, so it may be thy mercies are greater than other men's mercies; and if so, thou hast no cause but to hold thy peace.
- a.) *[Job 1.21-22]- And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*
- 6.) By great afflictions the Lord may greaten thy graces, and greaten thy name and fame in the world.
- a.) *[James 5.10-11]- Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*
- b.) *[Acts 20.23]- Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.*
- c.) *[2 Corinthians 11.23-28,30]- Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the*

*churches. If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.*

d.) *[Proverbs 22.1]- A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.*

e.) *[Ecclesiastes 7.1]- A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.*

g.) Objection 7: I would be silent, but my outward affliction is attended with sore temptations; God hath not only outwardly afflicted me, but Satan is let loose to buffet me; and therefore how can I be silent? How can I hold my peace, now I am fallen under manifold temptations?

1.) No man is the less beloved because he is tempted; nay, those that God loves best are usually tempted most.

a.) *[Ephesians 6.12]- For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

b.) *[Matthew 4.1]- Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

2.) Temptation resisted and bewailed, will never hurt you, nor harm you.

a.) *[Matthew 16.23]- But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

3.) Temptations are rather hopeful evidences that thy estate is good, that thou art dear to God, and that it shall go well with thee for ever, than otherwise.

a.) *[Hebrews 2.17-18]- Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

b.) *[Exodus 14.9]- But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.*

4.) Whilst Satan is tempting of thee, Christ in the court of glory is interceding for thee:

a.) *[Luke 22.31-32]- And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

b.) *[Hebrews 7.2]- To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;*

c.) *[John 17.11-15]- And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the*

*world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

- d.) *[Romans 8.34]- Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*
- 5.) All temptations that the saints meet with, shall work much for their good; they shall be much for their gain.
- a.) *[Romans 8.28]- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- b.) *[Lamentations 1.12]- Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.*
- c.) By temptations God multiples and increases his children's spiritual experiences, the increase of which is better than the increase of gold.
- 1.) *[2 Corinthians 12.9]- And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- d.) All their temptations shall be physical; their temptations shall be happy preventions of great abominations:
- 1.) *[2 Corinthians 12.7]- And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*
- e.) Temptation shall much promote the exercise of grace.
- 1.) *[Proverbs 30.33]- Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.*
- 2.) *[1 Peter 1.6]- Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*
- f.) By temptations the Lord will make you, the more serviceable and useful to others.
- 1.) *[2 Corinthians 1.3-4]- Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*
- g.) It is an honour to the saints to be tempted, and in the issue to have an honourable conquest over the tempter.
- 1.) *[1 Samuel 17.45-50]-Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. And*

*it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.*

- 2.) *[Job 1.20-22]- Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*
- 3.) *[2 Corinthians 12.7-10]- And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
- 4.) *[2 Samuel 23.15-18]- And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men. And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three.*
- 5.) *[1 Corinthians 10.13]- There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
- 6.) *[Romans 16.20]- And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*
- 7.) *[1 John 2.13-14]- I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*
- 8.) *[1 John 5.18]- We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

- 9.) *[Revelation 15.3]- And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*
- h.) By temptations the Lord will make his people more frequent and more abundant in the work of prayer.
- 1.) *[I Corinthians 12.8-9]- For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*
- i.) By temptations the Lord will make his people more and more conformable to the image of his Son.
- j.) God by temptations makes sin more hateful, and the world less delightful, and relations less hurtful.
- h.) Objection 8: Oh! But God hath deserted me! He hath forsaken me! And 'he that should comfort any soul stands afar off!' How can I be silent? The Lord has hid his face from me; clouds are gathered about me; God hath turned his back upon me; how can I hold my peace?
- 1.) It hath been the common lot, portion, and condition of the choicest saints in this world, to be deserted and forsaken of God.
- a.) *[Psalm 30.6-7]- And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.*
- b.) *[Psalm 77.6]- I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.*
- c.) *[Psalm 88.6]- Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.*
- d.) *[Job 23.8-9]- Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:*
- e.) *[Song of Solomon 3.1-4]- By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.*
- f.) *[Song of Solomon 5.6-7]- I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.*
- g.) *[Isaiah 8.17]- And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.*
- h.) *[Micah 7.7-9]- Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD*

*shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.*

- 2.) God's forsaking of thee is only partial, it is not total.
  - a.) *[Psalm 9.4]- For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.*
  - b.) *[Genesis 49.23-24]- The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)*
  - c.) *[2 Corinthians 12.9]- And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
  - d.) *[Psalm 37.23-24]- The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*
  - e.) *[Psalm 63.8]- My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*
  - f.) *[Song of Solomon 2.16]- My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.*
  - g.) *[Deuteronomy 33.27]- The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*
  
- 3.) Though God has forsaken thee, ye his love abides and continues constant to thee; he loves thee with an everlasting love.
  - a.) *[Jeremiah 31.8]- Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.*
  - b.) *[John 13.1]- Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*
  - c.) *[Isaiah 49.14-16]- But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.*
  - d.) *[Genesis 13.7-11]- And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot*

- chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.*
- e.) *[Genesis 43.29]- And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.*
- f.) *[Malachi 3.6]- For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
- g.) *[Jeremiah 31.18-20]- I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.*
- h.) *[Exodus 2.3-4]- And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.*
- i.) *[Hosea 11.1]- When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*
- 4.) Though thy Lord hath hid his face from thee, yet certainly thou hast his secret presence with thee.
- a.) *[Genesis 28.16]- And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.*
- b.) *[Hebrews 13.5]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
- c.) *[Song of Solomon 2.14]- O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.*
- d.) *[Psalm 13.1-3]- How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;*
- e.) *[Psalm 63.1-3]- O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.*
- f.) *[Song of Solomon 5.6]- I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.*
- g.) *[Exodus 33.20]- And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*

- h.) *[Psalm 30.6-7]- And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.*
- i.) *[Malachi 4.2]- But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*
- j.) *[Zephaniah 3.17]- The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*
- 5.) Though God be gone, yet he will return again.
- a.) *[Micah 7.19]- He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*
- b.) *[Song of Solomon 3.4]- It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.*
- c.) *[Psalm 94.19]- In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.*
- d.) *[Isaiah 54.7; 8,10]- For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.*
- 6.) God's deserting, God's forsaking of his people, shall many ways work for their good.
- a.) God by withdrawing from his people, will prepare and fit them for greater refreshings, manifestations, and consolations.
- 1.) *[Psalm 71.11,20-21]- Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him. Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.*
- 2.) *[Genesis 14.2-4]- That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.*
- b.) God's withdrawing from his people, he prevents his people's withdrawing from him; and so by an affliction he prevents sin.
- 1.) *[Hebrews 10.38-39]- Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*
- 2.) *[Psalm 30.7-8]- LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled. I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.*

- 3.) *[Psalm 63.1-2,8]- O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*
- c.) The Lord, by withdrawing from his people, will enhance and raise the price, and commend thy worth, excellency, sweetness, and usefulness of several precious promises, which otherwise would be but as dry breasts, and us useless weapons to the soul.
- 1.) *[2 Peter 1.4]- Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
- 2.) *[Micah 7.18-19]- Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*
- 3.) *[Isaiah 54.7-8]- For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*
- 4.) *[Hebrews 13.5-6]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*
- 5.) *[Hebrews 2.3]- How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*
- 6.) *[Psalm 5.12]- For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.*
- 7.) *[Psalm 112.4]- Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*
- 8.) *[Jeremiah 31.37]- Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.*
- 9.) *[1 Timothy 1.15]- This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
- 10.) *[John 10.29]- My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*
- 11.) *[Isaiah 57.15]- For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*
- 12.) *[Isaiah 26.3]- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*
- 13.) *[Matthew 11.28]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

- 14.) *[Deuteronomy 32.13]- He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;*
- d.) By God's hiding his face and withdrawing himself from thee, thou wilt be enabled, more feelingly, and more experimentally to sympathise with others, and to have compassion on others that are or may be in the dark and forsaken of God, as thou art,
- 1.) *[Hebrews 5.2]- Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 13.2]- Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*
- e.) Hereby the Lord will teach his people to set a higher price upon his face and favour when they come to enjoy it.
- 1.) *[Song of Solomon 3.4]- It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.*
  - 2.) *[Malachi 4.2]- But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*
  - 3.) *[Psalm 63.3]- Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.*
- f.) Hereby the Lord will train up his servants in that precious life of faith, which is the most honourable and the most happy life in all the world.
- 1.) *[2 Corinthians 5.7]- (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*
  - 2.) *[2 Kings 4.13]- And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.*
  - 3.) *[Isaiah 1.10]- Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.*
  - 4.) *[Isaiah 63.15-16]- Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained? Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.*
  - 5.) *[Job 13.15]- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*
- g.) By divine withdrawals, you are made more conformable to Christ your head and husband, who was under spiritual desertion as well as you.
- 1.) *[Matthew 27.46]- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 22.1-2]- My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.*

- h.) By these transient and partial forsakings, the Lord will exceedingly sweeten the clear, full, constant, and uninterrupted enjoyments of himself in heaven to all his people.
- 1.) *[Psalm 71.10,21]- For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.*
- i.) Objection 9: Oh! but I am falsely accused and sadly reproached, and my good name, which should be as dear or dearer to me than my life, is defamed and fly-blown, and things are laid to my charge that I never did, that I never knew?
- 1.) That it must be granted that a good name is one of the choicest jewels in a Christian's crown.
- a.) *[Ecclesiastes 7.1]- A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.*
- b.) *[Isaiah 39.2]- And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.*
- 2.) It must be granted, that a good name once lost, is very hardly recovered again.
- a.) *[Luke 15.32]- It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*
- b.) *[Ruth 1.14]- And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.*
- c.) Three things a Christian should stiffly labour to maintain:
- 1.) The honour of God.
- 2.) The honour of the gospel.
- 3.) The honour of his own name. If once a Christian's good name sets in a cloud, it will be long before it rises again.
- 3.) Though all this be true, yet it has been the portion of God's dearest saints and servants to be slandered, reproached, vilified, and falsely accused.
- a.) *[Psalm 31.18]- Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.*
- b.) *[Psalm 35.11]- False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.*
- 4.) Our Lord Jesus Christ was sadly reproached and falsely accused.
- a.) *[Matthew 11.19]- The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.*
- b.) *[Matthew 27.63]- Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.*
- c.) *[Revelation 1.5]- And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*
- d.) *[Revelation 3.14]- And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*
- e.) *[John 7.20]- The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?*
- f.) *[John 8.48]- Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?*

- g.) *[John 10.20-21]- And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?*
- h.) *[Luke 16.14]- And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.*
- i.) *[Luke 23.35]- And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*
- j.) *[John 19.12]- And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.*
- 5.) To be well spoken of by them that are ill spoken of by God, to be in favour with them who are out of favour with God, is rather a reproach than a honour to a man.
- a.) *[Luke 6.26]- Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.*
- 6.) There will come a day when the Lord will wipe off all the dust and filth that wicked men have cast upon the good names of his people.
- a.) *[Psalm 37.6]- And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*
- b.) *[Job 31.35-36]- Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book. Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me.*
- c.) *[Hebrews 11.25-26]- Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*
- 7.) The Lord hath been a swift anti a terrible witness against such that have falsely accused his children, and that have laded their names with scorn, reproach, and contempt,
- a.) *[Isaiah 41.2]- Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.*
- b.) *[Jude 15]- To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*
- c.) *[1 Kings 22.21-22]- And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.*
- d.) *[2 Kings 9.30]- And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.*
- e.) *[Amos 7.17]- Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.*

- f.) *[Esther 7.10]- So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.*
- g.) *[Esther 9.10]- The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.*
- h.) *[Daniel 6.24]- And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.*
- 8.) God himself is daily reproached.
- a.) *[Ezekiel 18.25]- Yet ye say, The way of the LORD is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?*
- b.) *[Jeremiah 2.5-6]- Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain? Neither said they, Where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?*
- c.) *[Genesis 4.13]- And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.*
- d.) *[Malachi 2.17]- Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?*
- e.) *[Malachi 3.14]- Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?*
- f.) *[Matthew 25.24]- Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*
- g.) *[Matthew 10.25]- It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?*
- j.) Objection 10: Sir, In this my affliction I have sought to the Lord for this and that mercy, and still God delays me, and puts me off; I have several times thought that mercy had been near, that deliverance had been at the door, but now I see it is afar off; how can I then hold my peace? How can I be silent under such delays and disappointments?
- 1.) The Lord does not always time his answers to the swiftness of his people's expectations.
- a.) *[Habakkuk 1.2]- O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!*
- b.) *[Job 19.7]- Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.*
- c.) *[Psalm 19.3]- There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*
- d.) *[Psalm 40.17]- But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.*
- e.) *[2 Corinthians 1.8-9]- For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But*

*we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:*

- f.) *[Psalm 105.17-19]- He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.*
- 2.) Though the Lord doth defer and delay you for a time, yet he will come, and mercy and deliverance shall certainly come.
- a.) *[Hebrews 10.37]- For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*
- b.) *[Habakkuk 2.3]- For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*
- c.) *[Psalm 71.20-21]- Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.*
- 3.) Though God do delay thee, yet he doth not forget thee.
- a.) *[Isaiah 49.14-16]- But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.*
- b.) *[Psalm 77.9-10]- Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.*
- c.) *[Isaiah 54.7-10]- For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.*
- d.) *[Isaiah 62.3-5]- Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.*
- e.) *[Genesis 8.1]- And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;*
- f.) *[Genesis 19.29-31]- And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt. And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:*

- g.) *[1 Samuel 1.9]- So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.*
- h.) *[Jonah 4.9-11]- And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?*
- 4.) God's time is always the best time: God always takes the best and fittest seasons to do us good.
- a.) *[Isaiah 49.8]- Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;*
- b.) *[Psalm 78.41]- Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.*
- c.) *[Acts 1.7]- And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*
- d.) *[Acts 17.26]- And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;*
- e.) *[Ecclesiastes 3.11]- He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*
- 5.) The Lord in this life will certainly recompense, and make his children amends for all the delays and put-offs that he exercises them with in this world.
- a.) *[2 Samuel 1.16-17]- And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed. And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:*
- 6.) The Lord never delays the giving in of this mercy, or that deliverance, or the other favour, but upon great and weighty reason; and therefore hold thy peace.
- 7.) Question 1: But what are the reasons that God doth so delay and put off his people from time to time, as we see he doth?
- a.) For the trial of his people, and for the differencing and distinguishing of them from others.
- 1.) *[Hebrews 12.8]- But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*
- b.) That they may have the greater experience of his power, grace, love, and mercy in the close.
- 1.) *[John 11.6,17]- When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.*
- c.) To sharpen his children's appetite, and to put a greater edge upon their desires;

- 1.) *[Song of Solomon 3.1-4]- By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.*
  - 2.) *[Isaiah 26.8-9,16]- Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.*
  - 3.) *[Numbers 22.15]- And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.*
- d.) God delays and puts off his people many times that he may make a fuller discovery of themselves to themselves.
- 1.) *[Ezekiel 24.6]- Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it.*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 73.11-12]- And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.*
- e.) God delays and puts off his people to enhance, to raise the price of mercy, the price of deliverance.
- 1.) *[Acts 21.8]- And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.*
  - 2.) *[Song of Solomon 3.1]- By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.*
  - 3.) *[1 Samuel 1.27]- For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:*
- f.) The Lord delays his people, that he may pay them home in his own coin.
- 1.) *[Proverbs 1.23,33]- Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. ut whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.*
  - 2.) *[Song of Solomon 5.3,5-8]- I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. I charge you, O*

*daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.*

- g.) The Lord delays his people, that heaven may be the more sweet to them at last.
2. Eutical or precativa. Helps and directions that may contribute to the silencing and stilling of your souls under the greatest afflictions, the sharpest trials, and the saddest providences that you meet with in this world;
- a. All the afflictions that come upon the saints, they are the fruits of divine love:
- 1.) *[Revelation 3.19]- As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 12.6]- For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*
  - 3.) *[Job 5.17]- Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:*
  - 4.) *[Job 7.17-18]- What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?*
  - 5.) *[Isaiah 48.10]- Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.*
  - 6.) *[Isaiah 1.5]- Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.*
- b. Consider, that the trials and troubles, the calamities and miseries, the crosses and losses that you meet with in this world, is all the hell that ever you shall have.
- 1.) *[Luke 16.25]- But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*
- c. Get an assurance that Christ is yours, and pardon of sin yours, and divine favour yours, and heaven yours; and the sense of this wilt exceedingly quiet and silence the soul under the sorest and sharpest trials a Christian can meet with in this world.
- 1.) *[Romans 8.37-39]- Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
  - 2.) *[Song of Solomon 2.16]- My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.*
  - 3.) *[Isaiah 33.24]- And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.*
  - 4.) *[Psalm 23.1, 4-7]- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*
- d. Dwell much upon the benefit, the profit, the advantage that has redounded to your souls by former troubles and afflictions that have been upon you.
- 1.) *[Ecclesiastes 7.14]- In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.*

- e. Your choicest, your chief treasure is safe;
- 1.) *[2 Timothy 1.12]- For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
  - 2.) *[2 Timothy 4.8]- Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*
  - 3.) *[1 Timothy 6.18-19]- That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*
- f. Set yourselves in good earnest upon the mortification of your lusts.
- 1.) *[James 4.1]- From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*
  - 2.) *[Romans 8.13]- For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*
  - 3.) *[Leviticus 14.14-16]- And the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot: And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand: And the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD:*
  - 4.) *[Mark 5.25]- And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,*
  - 5.) *[Judges 8.30-31]- And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives. And his concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.*
  - 6.) *[Judges 9.1-2]- And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.*
- g. That all the afflictions that come upon you, come upon you by and through that covenant of grace that God has made with you.
- 1.) *[Psalm 89.30-31]- If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;*
  - 2.) *[Psalm 119.75]- I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.*
  - 3.) *[Nehemiah 1.5]- And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*
- h. That all your afflictions do but reach the worsen, the baser, and the more ignoble part of a Christian, viz., his body, his outward man:
- 1.) *[2 Corinthians 4.16]- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*
  - 2.) *[1 Timothy 5.23]- Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*
  - 3.) *[3 John 2]- Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

- 4.) *[Hebrews 12.9]- Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*
  - 5.) *[Zechariah 12.1]- The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.*
- i. Keep up faith in continual exercise.
- 1.) By bringing the soul to sit down satisfied in the naked enjoyments of God.
    - a.) *[John 14.8]- Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*
    - b.) *[Psalm 17.13]- Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:*
  - 2.) By drying up the springs of pride, self-love, impatience, murmuring, unbelief, and the carnal delights of this world.
  - 3.) By presenting to the soul greater, sweeter, and better things in Christ, than any this world doth afford.
    - a.) *[Hebrews 11.3]- Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*
    - b.) *[Philippians 3.7-8]- But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*
  - 4.) By lessening the soul's esteem of all outward vanities. Do but keep up the exercise of faith, and thou wilt keep silent before the Lord. No man so mute, as he whose faith is still busy about invisible objects.
    - a.) *[Proverbs 13.16]- Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.*
- j. Keep humble before the Lord.
- 1.) *[Proverbs 13.16]- Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.*
- k. Hold fast these soul-silencing and soul-quieting maxims or principles.
- 1.) That the worst that God doth to his people in this world, in order to the making of them a heaven on earth.
    - a.) *[Hosea 2.14]- Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.*
    - b.) *[Acts 7.58-60]- And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*
  - 2.) That what God wills is best.
    - a.) *[Hebrews 12.10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
  - 3.) That the lord will bear thee company in all thy afflictions.
    - a.) *[Isaiah 41.10]- Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

- b.) *[Isaiah 43.2]- When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*
  - c.) *[Psalm 23.4-5]- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
  - d.) *[Psalm 90.15]- Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.*
  - e.) *[Daniel 3.25]- He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*
  - f.) *[Genesis 39.20-21]- And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*
  - g.) *[2 Timothy 4.16-17]- At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*
- 4.) That the Lord hath more high, more noble, and more blessed ends in the afflicting of you than he has in the afflicting of the men of the world.
- a.) *[Ecclesiastes 9.2]- All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.*
- 5.) That the best way in this world to have thine own will, is to lie down in the will of God, and quietly to resign up thyself to the good will and pleasure of God,
- a.) *[Matthew 15.21,29]- Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.*
- 6.) That God will make times of afflictions to be times of special manifestations of divine love and favour to thee.
1. Dwell much upon the brevity or shortness of man's life.
- 1.) *[Romans 8.18]- For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*