

Notes of Sermon preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's Day morning December 11th 1910

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. (1 Peter 5:10)

I was very low last evening, and I really thought that, if permitted to come before you, I should have to read by way of text the words of Isaiah: *O Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me. (Isaiah 38:14)* The Lord does sometimes permit His servants to be brought very low, and then He gives them grace to lay the matter before Him, and to lift up their eyes to the hill from whence cometh their help. He sends their help from the sanctuary, and He strengthens them out of Zion. The Lord can strengthen the heart in a moment. He has but to speak and it is done. Some of us are witness that He does. He heals all our diseases, and makes us young again. And we can say: *I will go in the strength of the Lord God. I will make mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only. God is faithful,* says the apostle Paul, *He has called us into the fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ.* If you are thus called, you will know something of having fellowship with Christ in His sufferings, and say with the apostle: *God shall be magnified in my body. For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain.*

The words that helped me and strengthened me were those I have read by way of text: *The God of all grace.* The apostle addressed God as *the God of all grace.* You will not find such an expression in any other part of the Bible. I feel I do want grace from the God of all grace. Peter knew what it was to have grace from the God of all grace. If God had given Peter grace, and left him without a supply of grace, that would not have been sufficient. There was grace from the God of all grace for him. *Simon, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. (Luke 22:31)* How soon after this Peter denied His Lord with oaths and curses! I have often thought of the Lord's dealings with poor Peter. He looked upon him, and that look broke Peter's heart. I believe Peter never forgave himself for denying his Lord and Master. But the Lord forgave him. After His resurrection from the dead, He sends a message to His disciples, and above all to Peter also. Peter needed a special message. You see what a gracious God our God is. *He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. (Psalm 103:14)* What is man left to himself? How soon such a one may deny the Lord, and be brought low by reason of iniquity. No man can keep alive his own soul; he needs grace every moment. Let a man have broken bones for his sin, and grace because of sin, and let God apply the blood of atonement to that man's guilty conscience – how ever after this he will seek to walk in the fear of the Lord.

Now the apostle knew what it was to sin, and to be restored, and to have grace from the God of all grace. I scarcely know where to begin in handling the subject. If the Lord so lead us, we will notice first the persons the apostle bears before the God of all grace. He speaks of them being called unto His eternal glory. Then we will notice that he addresses God on their behalf, and then notice the prayer to the God of all grace for those *who are called unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after they have suffered a while, to make them perfect, stablish, settle them.*

I have told you many times there is no other way of coming to the things of God, but through the way of suffering; through tribulation you enter the kingdom of God's grace. I am as satisfied of it as I am of my own existence. These elect, through much tribulation had entered the kingdom of God's grace. Peter could say: *Grace unto you – that is more grace – and peace – from God. – be multiplied. (ch.1:2)* What a mercy if we have, through suffering, entered the kingdom of God's grace in any measure! The apostle addressed these as the *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.* O what a blessed portion of God's most holy Word is this! One is lost in wonder, adoration and praise to think that God should from all eternity have chosen a people in the Person of His dear Son.

Men do not like the word *elect*. Perhaps there is something in your mind that rises up against it.. The carnal mind does not like the truth of God. But what a mercy if there is that in us which loves the truth of God! Some say, "I do believe in election to certain offices, but I do not believe in personal election through special redemption." Well, here you have it in the Word of God: *Elect...unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*. There may be those in this house of prayer this morning, and perhaps that is why the Lord is leading me, that are exercised as to whether they are elect vessels of mercy. Well, as I have sometimes remarked, sinners do not come to God on the ground of election. I mean this: the Lord takes an elect sinner in hand, a vessel of mercy, and this elect sinner comes to God as a sinner confessing his sin. He comes in faith, and with repentance. This repentance is God's gift. It is faith on the dark side, you may say. It is the faith of God nevertheless. It is like the leper, so to speak: *If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean*. Or he cries from the depths of his soul: *Lord, save me, or I perish*.

Is this how you are approaching a holy God? You say, "I do not come in any other way. I cannot come on the ground of election." The devil says, "It is no use your praying. You are not one of the elect." It does not say in the Word of God: "Come unto Me all ye that are elect." But it does say: *Come unto Me. all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)* I speak after this manner for the encouragement of any poor soul that may be tempted to stop away from the throne of grace, because he thinks he is not an elect vessel of mercy. Plead your cause as best you can. Ask Him to look upon you and pity you in your sin and guilt, and to deliver you from going down into the pit.

Did sinners sink to woe longing to know Him? Never, never! The Word of God is true. That man shall be saved. What a mercy to be a beggar at the throne of grace! The God of grace lives to save the soul. This soul is born of God. You cannot do without the Lord. *Give me grace, or else I die*. That soul will know what it is, sooner or later, to be washed in the blood of Christ.

*In Christ's obedience clothe, And wash me in His blood;
So shall I lift my head with joy Among the sons of God. (Elliott & Toplady)*

The time will come when that soul will be filled with all the fulness of God. That soul is called into God's eternal glory by Christ Jesus. That is what the soul is called unto. God will give more grace.

When I look at these words, I say in soul feeling: *Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift*. There is none so precious as the dear Redeemer. How these words in the *Song of Solomon* have been on my mind: *Until the day break, and the shadows flee away... (ch.3:17)* There is none like Jesus unto the soul that has been called to His eternal glory. O what a mercy to see our calling! Can you honestly say, "I see my election of God"? O happy soul! O blessed man of God! Eternal glory! Think of it for a moment. We shall have to speak of suffering if the Lord so lead us. Paul says: *The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)* *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. As the Father hath loved Me, Christ says, so have I loved you. (John 14:1 & 15:9)* Well might John say: *It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:2)*

May the Holy Ghost help you to think of these things, *see Him as He is*. I do love the words:

*See Him wear that very flesh On which my sins were laid;
His love intense, His merits fresh, As though but newly slain. (A M Toplady)*

To see Him as He is.

*The God shines gracious through the Man,
And sheds sweet glories on them all. (Isaac Watts)*