

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day June 26th 1910

Morning Sermon

*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.
(Isaiah 41:10)*

What an infinite mercy to be a possessor of grace, to have, if I may so speak, a grain of grace. If we have a grain of grace, we shall seek grace. It is grace that makes us feel our need of grace. If we were not partakers of grace, we should not come to the throne of grace, that we might obtain grace in the time of need. The Lord calls His people by His grace, and He makes them to be meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Is there anything in you, my dear hearers that goes after God? That which comes from God goes back to God. If there is anything in me that wants God, that cannot do without God, the Lord has said: *Heaven is My throne... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word. (Isaiah 66:1,2)* Have you ever trembled at God's word, at God's holiness? God is holy; there is none holy as the Lord. And every sinner in whose heart God has deposited His grace trembles at God's majesty.

I was thinking of Jacob. The birthright belongs to Esau the firstborn. God makes known to Rebekah that the elder should serve the younger. You know how Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. He said: *Feed me...with that red pottage, for I am faint. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.* And he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Well, when Isaac was old he wished to bless his son Esau. And he asked him to make such savoury meat that he loved, that he might bless him before he died. Rebekah spoke to Jacob concerning this matter. What right has Isaac to bless Esau, the birthright belongs to Jacob. It seems merely to one's mind that he thought more of his savoury meats at this particular moment. Well Rebekah speaks to Jacob concerning the matter. You will find that Jacob lies on this matter. Rebekah tells him to. Jacob deceives his father. He says, *I am Esau.* When his father asks him how it was he had so quickly obtained venison, he tells lie upon lie. There is something, to my mind, very solemn in this. Jacob, it is true, has the blessing. How he sent him to take a wife. I have sometimes thought of that journey, of Jacob, homeless and a wanderer, journeying to his uncle Laban. At night Jacob lighted upon a certain place, and took of the stone of that place, and is laid down to sleep. I am not prepared to say what took place while he journeyed to this place. But he had a dream. And he dreamed, and behold, a ladder reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. And the Lord stood above it and said, *I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it...And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6) God was in one mind concerning the salvation of Jacob. He will fulfil the promises He made to Jacob. He will confirm them. *The land whereon thou liest, I will give it to thee. And, behold, I am with thee, and will help thee. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! Some think Jacob referred to two places. He stood guilty before God. How dreadful is this place! The Lord appeared to him there, and was near to him there. And he said, This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.* I would not like to say that has not been the experience of God's people who have sinned against him. O what a mercy we have the experiences of these children God laid down in the word of God! They were men of like passions as we. God was merciful and gracious unto them. *Who is a God like unto our God, who retaineth not His anger for ever. He delighteth in mercy.*

Some men say, Let us sin that grace may abound. But a man that hath the grace of God in his soul, he would live without sin. *Oh that Thou wouldst keep me from evil.* God loved Jacob; the Lord appeared, and put away Jacob's sin. And Balaam had to say: *The LORD hath not beholden iniquity in Jacob, nor seen perverseness in Israel.* Poor Jacob went halting all his days, if I may so speak. He had a life of trial and affliction all through the journey down to the end. He says: *Few and evil have the days of my life been.* God was faithful to perform His holy promises to Jacob, and God is faithful that hath promised.

When I read these words on the past Friday, O what light seemed to shine through this portion of the word of God. Have you not sometimes gone to the precious Book, and turned to a portion, and you have said: "I have never seen such light as I do now. O what fulness is in this part of the word of God! In Thy light we see light." Then we can say: *The LORD is my light and my salvation. Of whom shall I be afraid? The LORD is the strength of my heart.* Let God speak to you this day: *Fear thou not; I am with thee.*

I want to trace these things out, as the Lord will help me. As soon as the Lord finds a sinner and charges sin home to his conscience, that man will have fear, and be the subject of fear. He will know something of fear more or less down to the end of time. Sinner, where did God find you? I know where He found me.

*Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God. (Lady Huntingdon)*

Jesus found the sinner. A sinner would never find the Lord. I am found of them that sought not after me. Has it not been fulfilled in some of our experiences? You were seeking to have your fill of the pleasures of sin, and when He found you, you were at the ends of the earth afar off.

*Glory to God, they ne'er shall rove
Beyond the limits of His love;
Fenced by Jehovah's shalls and wills,
Firm as the everlasting hills. (John Kent)*

The Lord finds a sinner. He found Jacob; He found Manasseh; He found Mary Magdalene; He found Saul of Tarsus; and He found the poor man in the pulpit.

*I felt the arrows of distress,
And found I had no hiding-place. (Brewer)*

I do increasingly feel the solemnity of these things. O my friends, it is a solemn thing to be on the borders of the grave, without God, and without hope in the world. The next moment you may be gone with everlasting ruin. Don't you think it is a solemn work to be engaged in - to stand before the living and the dead? O that I could set forth the things of God more and more. O that the Lord would make me useful in the ingathering of sinners. What I felt last Saturday evening it would be impossible for me to give utterance to. O to stand before men and women and preach the gospel of God! Every minister needs God to speak to him in the words of my text. The sinner quickened into divine life, born of God, brought in guilty, he needs a *Fear not*. I appeal to some of you: is not this your spot, this morning? And you tremble before a holy God, and you feel that if God was to cast you into hell you would have to justify Him. I read a remark yesterday where a woman said that if her soul were sent to hell, she hoped that she should not speak against Him in hell. Why, that soul would not be cast into hell. And Christ demands the salvation of that person. Christ is with that soul to save her. The Holy Spirit convinces of sin, divine life enters the soul. That soul is a partaker of the divine nature. The soul is brought in guilty.

O if this chapel was filled with sinners seeking the Lord Jesus Christ, I should address them as those that shall –

– live to reach the place
Where He unveils His lovely face,
Where all His beauties you behold,
And sing His name to harps of gold. (Isaac Watts)

Though it is not full of such, I believe there are such persons present. I believe there are sinners in this house of prayer who feel they will be cast for ever from the presence of the Lord. You fear lest He will never save you. He will come and save you – He lives to save. Jesus lives to save. And all those that come unto Him, they come unto Him as drawn by the cords of love. He draws them. *If I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me.* He does not draw the sinner to damn him. He magnifies His grace.

Do you believe that God's will shall be done? Then, seeking soul, you must go to heaven. It is not the will of the Father that you should perish. *I will that all them Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am.*

*Then hail, ye happy mourners;
How blest your state to come is!
Ye soon will meet with comfort sweet;
It is the Lord's own promise. (Joseph Hart)*

The time will come when He will –

*Assure your conscience of your part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear the witness with your heart
That you are born of God. (Isaac Watts)*

You shall have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of heaven. For this is the word of God: *All thy children shall be taught of the LORD.*

Do you believe this – that it is God's work to save a sinner from beginning to end, and that man has nothing to do with it? Never shall I forget once preaching in a pulpit where they used to have a Wesleyan one Sunday, a Congregationalist another, and a Strict Baptist another, etc. I said to the people, "You may have a minister come here, and say, "God has done His part, and you have to do yours." I said, "If there is anything left for you to do, you will be damned." It will not do to say, "I am a sinner, and I am saved." It will not do, friends, for eternity. I believe that many, in a dying hour, think that they are right because there is no rising up. It is not true concerning that man, that he dies in peace. There never was a real beginning. The devil does not trouble them, and sin does not trouble them. The devil seeks to destroy the faith of God's elect, and oftentimes appears on a dying bed. They have to prove that grace, though the smallest, shall be tried. With that feeling they will go to heaven – absent from the body, present with the Lord. The soul needs a *Fear not*. All through the journey he will be subject to fears. Some say they do not like to hear ministers speak of having fears and doubts.

– the long cloud of witnesses
Shows the same path to heaven.

and –

*Our glorious Leader claims our praise
For His own pattern given. (Isaac Watts)*

These persons that are not worms, that have not doubts and fears, they do not need an almighty arm to sustain them.

Fear thou not. Fears within, and so this is the path the Christian has to tread. *Fight the good fight of faith.* There will be fightings without, and fears within. O what fears within! You read the word of

God, take twelve months to read it through every year (I never wish to spend a year without reading the word of God through) and find how many times you read *Fear not*. Jacob was a worm. *Fear not, worm Jacob*. God's people feel themselves to be worms. How helpless they are!

*Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of Thy wing. (Charles Wesley)*

I do not mind being called a worm, so long as I have One to shield me, and to fight the battle for me, to lay hold upon Him as my life. I do not mind having the fears that God's people are the subject of, so long as the Lord will come near to me at times, and say: *Fear not*.

May God add His blessing.

Afternoon Sermon

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. (Isaiah 41:10)

*What more can He say than to you He has said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

*The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake. (Kirkham)*

Now let me say this, that if you are that soul, hell will endeavour to shake you, the devil will seek to get you into his sieve. The Lord said to Simon: *Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have thee that he may sift thee as wheat. But I have prayed for thee*. You may sometimes feel you have no faith, and really there may be no faith in exercise. You have faith even if you cannot see it; you believe even if you cannot see it. Faith, what a gift it is! The Lord has given it to you, and God will try it. The furnace is to try the reality of your religion, and my religion. Let all that is of the flesh be burned up.

In these moments there are fightings without and fears within. God's people in all ages have been the subject of fears. And if God's people were not the subject of fears there would not be so many *Fear nots* in the word of God. What a warfare! What a conflict! *The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh*. Can you do the thing you would? And sometimes, because you cannot do that thing you would, you wonder if you have missed the way. I know sometimes the Lord's people want Him to speak to them. They have this fear as to whether, after all, their religion is a real religion, and whether they are in the footsteps of the flock. It is not to say because you are tried you are not in the footsteps of the flock. It is not a mark against you. There are many in this generation who have no changes therefore they fear not God. God's people have solemn changes, and they sometimes fear. Creatures of fear, they drag along. That is where there is no need of fear. We need a *Fear not*. God's people in all ages have needed a *Fear not*. The Lord said to them: *Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*. What a mercy to feel after the things of God! What a mercy to have grace in our hearts the hope of glory! To have a trial of faith. It is more precious than gold that perisheth.

Now let the Lord appear this afternoon. You will praise Him, and honour Him. You will speak of Him as the chiefest among ten thousand. When the Lord draws near a poor sinner and says: *Fear thou not*, all fear is gone. I well remember, many years since, when sorely put to it, the Lord dropped these words with divine power into my soul: *For I am with thee, to save thee*. O let the Lord come and say: *I am with thee, to save thee*. Then doubts and fears fly away. You do need to realise that the Lord is

your refuge and your strength. *Fear thou not.* O blessed Jesus, drop a *Fear not* into some tried soul this day. This is the burden of my breathings as I stand before you this afternoon, that the Lord will drop a *Fear not* into some poor doubting troubled breast.

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. Words of grace and salvation. O to come from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ, it will break a man into dust.

*Why me, why me, O blessed God,
Why such a wretch as me?
Who must for ever lie in hell,
Were not salvation free. (Daniel Herbert)*

And the answer will be, "Because I love thy soul, I died for thee." And what God has decreed for you, poor soul, is hid from you. But there are tokens of His grace. He brings to pass His purposes of love and mercy. *Fear thou not.* Ah, there were moments when Jacob had his fears. He feared his brother Esau would seek to kill him. And so you have had fears, and taken them to the Lord, and in the midst of it all He has said: *Fear not. Hearken unto Me, ye that know righteousness... fear ye not the reproaches of men... The moth shall eat them up like a garment. Fear thou not.* O my friends, all fear disappears in a moment when Jesus speaks. I have proved it, and some of you have proved it. *Fear thou not.* Then we have no cause to fear. O if God speaks it is right, all is well in a moment when He speaks to our soul.

What I felt in these words I cannot put into words. A man is a happy man when God says: *Fear thou not.* He realises he is a happy man when God speaks to him. I said, "Master," and I said, "Lord, Thou wouldst have been just if Thou hadst never spoken one word." And then to think that He comes to such sinners with such words of love. *Fear thou not.* You ask the dear child of God in such a moment where his God is, and he will say, "God is in the heavens. It is a mercy to realise I have a God in heaven, a mediator in heaven, and that I am united to Him, that we two are so joined that He won't be in heaven and leave me behind. He bids me *Fear not.*" When God says *Fear not*, to a man, he can go in the strength of the Lord. I cannot call to mind the person of whom I was reading yesterday, but the bishop told him he would starve. But the Lord was with him. He said, "If I have nothing to eat, the Lord can take away my appetite." Is it not true?

Oh my friends, you think of it, God prepares His people for what He has appointed them to. *Faithful is He that hath promised. I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* I want to speak to you in a homely way as my people. When did God last drop a *Fear not* into your soul? When did He last speak to you in the substance of my text: *Fear thou not*? You know whether God has ever said it to you. Conscience is your witness. Did He drop a *Fear not* when the troubles of hell got hold upon you? Has He spoken a *Fear not* since then? My friends, I know, and some of you know, what it is to have restless days and nights, not to go near to Him the whole of the day, and get nothing on my knees. I am tossed to and fro upon my bed, sleepless nights, restless days. Do you tread this path? Is this a path you know anything of? If so, you will be brought where Jacob was, left alone, wrestling with the angel. What a mercy to know anything of a wrestling spirit, to take hold on God's strength! Have you ever taken hold of Him and wrestled with Him? One old divine says he was more likely to hold tighter as the day was breaking. And as he did, he got such a firm hold upon Him, he says. *I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.*

What have you to say about your religion? What sort of a religion have you? I do long to know what sort of a religion my people have. As a church and people we have a religion of God, a spirit of God. We must know something of weakness, and of being worms. I do feel like a worm. *I'd creep beside Him as a worm. Cover my defenceless head with the shadow of Thy wing.* I am willing to be a worm

if I have the strength and the blessing of God. Is this your religion? It is a mercy if it is. I am assured that if it is, you know something of mercy being fulfilled. O I have solemn thoughts concerning the things of God in the day in which we live. When I read the life of an old divine, I say there are changes these days. And then you look at your own life, and you inwardly sigh, and wonder whether you have got a grain of grace. It seems that there were not ten minutes in Rowland Hill's life but what he was praying. *Men ought always to pray and not to faint.* You may pray in the stable, in the cart, in the shop, or wherever you are. *Men ought always pray and not faint.* It did my heart good to hear that you had such good prayer meetings last Lord's Day.

*Wrestling prayer can wonders do,
Bring relief in deepest straits!
Prayer can force a passage through
Iron bars and brazen gates. (John Newton)*

If a man cannot preach before a praying people, he cannot preach anywhere. O what a mercy to know the power of prayer, to be praying souls, wrestling souls! When the Lord comes with such a word as this: *Fear thou not*, how that soul realises that he is a vessel of mercy, that heaven is his home. *Fear thou not; I am with thee.* You think who it is that speaks in the words of our text. *I am the great I AM. I am with thee.* God the Father is with His people. *I am with thee.*

*Let me but hear my Saviour say,
"Strength shall be equal to thy day;"
Then I rejoice in deep distress,
Leaning on all-sufficient grace. (Isaac Watts)*

I am with thee. O how precious! It comes right home to a man's soul. He speaks: *I am with thee. Fear thou not.* O when the Lord speaks these words right home to the soul, then the soul has confidence. The soul realises its safety; the soul feels blessed. Is it possible that the Lord should be with worms of the earth? You think who it is that speaks: *I am with thee.* Jesus in us; God in us. O child of God, if you are one of the Lord's, He is with you, He dwells in you. The heaven of heavens cannot contain Him.

*Unworthy dwelling, glorious guest,
Favour astonishing, divine.*

He says to the people: *I am with thee.* What a mercy to realise that God is with us! You know we are not our own. We are bought with a price. We are called upon to seek God in our spirit. We are not to make provision to fill the lust of our flesh. *Know ye not that your bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost?*

You see a poor saint, a child of God in his weakness, yet God is with him. *Fear thou not, I am with thee.* The Hebrew children did not fear because God was with them. What have I to fear if Jesus is with me? If God is for us He is more than all that can be against me. The world will be against you, but if the Lord is for you, all is well. *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end.* O, to have Christ with us we can smile at the storm.

*'Tis well with them while life endure,
And well when called to die. (John Kent)*

Fear thou not. Why fear not? *I am with thee.* You pore over it when you go home, and may the Holy Ghost lead you into the deep things contained in it. Be not troubled. Ah, sometimes that dear child of God is amazed, cannot understand it. How dark, how mysterious the way the Lord is leading him. He is troubled. There are sinkings of soul, and the soul sinks deeper and deeper. But the Lord draws near. *Fear thou not, I am with thee.* O what words of grace, O what sweet words from a precious Christ!

Be not dismayed, and dread the sorrows of the night. Do you dread the path you are called to tread? You are amazed. Don't be dismayed. *I am with thee; I am thy God*. It is all right, my child. There is a needs-be for this. *I am thy God*; I still love thee. *I know the thoughts that I think toward thee; thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end*. When the Lord speaks to His people after this manner they can indeed smile at the storm. They can sing with the heart:

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress. (?Kirkham)*

Do you long after the Lord to say: *I am thy God*? I would ask you: Has God ever told you He is your God? I quote a remark of the late dear Mr. Philpot: "If the Lord comes and calls you His child, I have no objection to your saying 'My God'. Let the Lord say: *I am thy God*, then you can say: *My God, my Father, blissful name*." *Be not faithless, but believing. My Lord, and my God*. I am thy God to help thee, to stand by thee, to bless thee. I have made all provision for thee, I will strengthen thee. What a mercy to be strengthened in the inner man! *He gives power to the faint, and He increaseth strength*. They run and grow not weary. *I will strengthen thee*. You have no less than three of God's *I wills* in the latter part of my text: *I will strengthen thee; I will keep thee; I will uphold thee*. There is the promise. God will strengthen thee, poor soul. He shall strengthen thine heart, all ye that wait upon the Lord. *Yea, I will help thee*. Lift up your eyes to the hill from whence cometh your help.

*Could the creatures help or ease us,
Seldom should we think of prayer;
Few, if any, come to Jesus,
Till reduced to self-despair. (John Newton)*

When the man is reduced to self-despair, then the Lord appears. God will sustain him according to His righteousness. He will be faithful that hath promised to perform His holy promises. *Faithful is He that hath promised*. God has pledged His word. Do not you sometimes sing, and you feel the sweetness of it:

*The gospel bears my spirit up;
A faithful and unchanging God
Lays the foundation of my hope,
In oaths, and promises, and blood. (Isaac Watts)*

May the Holy Ghost fasten the words of our text upon our hearts, that we may go from this house of prayer, and be favoured in our meditations upon the words. Perhaps some of you have not had a good hearing time. If so, may the Holy Ghost bring them to your remembrance on the coming day. A man once said to me: "I always like hearing a certain minister, for if I do not get something during the day, I have some sweet meditations during the week after hearing him." May the Holy Ghost bring it to your remembrance during the week. These are deep things contained in our text: *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*.

May the Lord add His blessing.