

Good Words for Every Day of the Year,  
Good Words, 1860. Editor, Norman MacLeod, DD.  
Edinburgh: Alexander Strahan and Co. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

July 29.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."—Ps. xxvii. 14.

Do you ask, if, when we are in a low, backsliding state, we are really to do nothing but *wait* ? Ah, but it is a great thing to wait *on the Lord!* To feel that He only can revive us again; that all depends on Him; that our drooping graces only want Him to restore them, our weary souls only want Him to make the way pleasant, and our feet like "hinds' feet." Wait then, on Him. When he bids us wait, we may be assured that it is not for nothing we are waiting, for even while waiting, He says, "be of good courage," wait in hope. When David was very weary, he said to himself, " Why art thou cast down, O my soul? hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him." He *must* have been the better for even that little glance up from the present to the future, from himself and all his distressing circumstances to his God! The command is not only to wait on the Lord, but also to be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; very similar to that in the fortieth of Isaiah, " they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

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July 30.

"We love him, because he first loved us."— 1 John iv. 19.

Love to Jesus, like every other good and perfect gift, must be received *from Him*, not brought to Him; and how precious is the faintest spark of it, when thus viewed as *His gift*, for it is *life, yea, eternal life!* "We love Him because He first loved us," not merely in the sense of a grateful return of love for love such as subsists between man and man (see Matt. v. 46). No, before we can say "we love Him," how much needs to be done, both *in* us and *for* us! We are the objects of the Father's love, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; *therefore* with loving-kindness have I drawn thee," Jer. xxxi. 3. All His dealings with us, even before we knew Him, are, like the chariot spoken of in the Song of Songs, "*paved* with love;" it is the channel through which all our blessings flow, and they thus flowed upon us long before our hearts were softened into one thought of love in return. We may be ready to say, "Can the Lord of glory care for *our* love?" Yes, and knowing that it will not spring up in our hearts of itself, He sends His Spirit to shed abroad the love of God in our hearts, watches over its rise and progress, and often says to us, as He did to Peter, "Lovest thou me?"

July 31.

"The soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."—Numb. xxi. 4.

"He led them forth by the right way."—Ps. cvii. 7.

Is it wonderful that we should sometimes be weary in a world like this? so little that is satisfying within us or around us; we toil in our uphill way, and begin to wonder if this can really be the *right way!* And yet, what is the difference between the way *now*, and at some former time, when perhaps we could say from experience, "wisdom's ways are ways of *pleasantness*, and all her paths are *peace!*" Outward circumstances, it is true, may be different, but the great difference is this, that *we* are now discouraged, heartless, and desponding. Oh, how well Satan likes to keep us in this state! but he cannot do so long. Amidst all our weariness, there is One (we did not perhaps think how near He was) who never wearies of us. He delights in restoring our souls, in renewing our strength, in reviving our fainting hearts. He is not indifferent as to what state we are in, but having all the supplies of grace treasured up in Himself for us, He sometimes sees it good to let us feel our own emptiness, before He fills us with His Spirit. Still, He is watching and waiting to be gracious; meantime, what can we do but *wait for Him*.