

A Few Thoughts from Samuel Richardson
From The Saints Desire, 1647

Concerning Looking To Christ only

Eye Christ only, mind him, meditate upon him, and his rich and free grace, fetch all thy comforts from him, who is made to thee, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, 1 Cor. 1. 30. If thou attends only to God in his promise, thou shall find Rest, Psal. 116. 7. O believer, eye not so much thy self, or thy sins, as Christ's full and perfect satisfaction, which was offered and accepted for all thy sins, Heb. 10. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Oh therefore live, and rest thy soul upon thy sweet Lord Jesus Christ alone, & place all thy confidence in him. Dost thou not hear God say to thee, Cast away all thy fears, and come to me, I will settle thee, comfort, quicken, uphold thee, and be better to thee then thy self can be; I will be all in all unto thee?

The state of a believer in Christ

Know the happiness and perfection of the state of a believer in Christ, he is clean from all sin by the blood of Christ, 1 Joh. 1. 7. They are removed from us, Psal. 103. 12. A believer in Christ is accepted of God in him, as perfect, righteous, and comely, as Christ is; for Christ saith to his; Thou art all faire my love, there is no spot in thee. There is not any sin a believer can commit, can be a ground sufficient to question the love of God, nor ought they to cast away their confidence in God, for any thing they do, or can befall them, nor ought they to cause any uniqueness of spirit in them, Heb. 10. 19, 20. 22. 25. For now there is none that can lay any thing to the charge of God's Elect, as Rom. 8. 1. Oh meditate on this truth, until thy heart be over powered with it, and thou enjoy the sweetness of it, and ever mind it seriously, thy full freedom and sweet liberty thou hast in Christ, Gal. 5. 13.

Learn to distinguish between thy Justification and Sanctification

Learn to distinguish between thy Justification and thy personal Sanctification; the first is perfect and complete in Christ; the latter is in our selves, and is weak, and imperfect, and uncertain, as appears, Rom. 7. Let us look off our sins, and look upon Gods sweet promise, who saith, Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more, Heb. 10. 17. So that now we may draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, for he is faithful that promised, verse. 22, 23.

Let not thy comfort depend upon thy personal Sanctification, because from it there can no sure selected constant comfort flow. To seek comfort from Sanctification, and not from their Justification in Christ, is a cause of much trouble in many a weak believer; for Sanctification hath nothing to do with Justification, nor salvation, as any cause of it. Also Sanctification admits of degrees, but Justification admits of neither rules nor degrees, and is more glorious then Sanctification: our Justification depends not upon our apprehending of it, nor in our receiving of it, but upon the effectualness and merit of what our sweet Lord Jesus hath done for us, Heb. 10. 14. 18, 19. So that now we may well have boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, verse. 20. Justification is apprehended by faith, Heb. 11. 1. Joh. 8. 56. Faith doth evidence to us our justification; for the Scripture saith, all that believe are justified, Act. 13. 39. It is possible to have a full assurance of faith, Heb. 10. 22. therefore faith is an unquestionable evidence: and when faith is hidden and doubtful, Justification is not apprehended; and when faith is hidden and doubtful, Sanctification is not evident but doubtful, and so cannot evidence to us our Justification: the effects of Sanctification cause men to question their Justification, therefore no effect of Sanctification can evidence to the soul its Justification; and that soul that by Faith apprehends his Justification by Christ, not only knows it, but may live upon it, enjoying the sweet fruit of it, peace, joy, strength, without any considering the effects of Sanctification in himself. And seeing Christ is made Sanctification to a believer, 1 Cor. 1. 30. why may not a believer live upon his own, and say, I

have Sanctification in Christ, which is perfect, my actual righteousness doth often fail me, but Christ's righteousness endures for ever, Psal. 111. 3. therefore I will fetch all my comfort from Christ, and my Justification by him; and as we are not to conclude our Justification from any effect of Sanctification, so we are not to conclude that apprehension of Justification to be from God, as shall take men off the means and rules of Sanctification, because it is to the dishonor of God for men not to walk holily, according to the word of God, Tit. 2. 14. Prize and preserve the peace of thy conscience.

Be sure you allow your selves in no sin

Be sure you allow your selves in no sin, but in the power and strength of Christ, to hate and abhor with the greatest indignation all sin, and the appearance of evil; it is better to dye then to sin: there is that which accompanies sin, which strikes at a believers peace and comfort, and will damp, straiten and oppress their comfort, joy, and peace in God, unless God doth wonderfully strengthen their faith in him. And such as live by faith, and enjoy sweet peace in him, have found sin to be an enemy, and a let to their faith and comfort, it having often unsettled, and disquieted, and clouded their soul's peace, though indeed it ought not so to do, for we are to remember that sweet place, Heb. 10. 17. Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. This alone is able to settle a soul, it being full of sweetness and life.

Do not trouble thy self with anything that may befall thee; in case thou wert certain great troubles shall befall thee, be not troubled at any trouble, much less for future trouble, nor think not to encounter with & supply a future trouble, with a present strength; if many and great troubles come, God is all sufficient, and will remove them, or give strength to bear them when they come, 1 Cor. 10. 13.

Mind seriously those promises of God

Mind seriously those promises of God that are suitable to thy condition, separate thy self to meditate upon them, as Prov. 18. 2. hide them in thy heart, as Mat. 13. 44. There is strength and sweetness in the promise, thou may venture thy soul upon God in his promise, and live upon it, thou knows not but God may reveal his promise to thee, and settle it sweetly and fully upon thy soul by his almighty power, as Ephes. 1. 19, 20. Therefore let not Gods promises be strange to thee, but feed upon them, eat them; Eat O friends, drink abundantly O beloved, Song 5. 1. Leave not the promise, until thou be refreshed, revived, raised, ravished with Gods rich grace and infinite free love, and thy heart enlarged with thankfulness and obedience unto God again for the exceeding riches of his mercy, Eph. 2. 9. His plenteous Redemption, Psal. 130. 7.

Treasure up experiences of Gods

Treasure up experiences of Gods goodness unto thy soul, but who among you will give ear to this? Who will hearken and hear for the time to come? Isa. 42. 23. Remember the days of old, I have considered the days of old, and the years of ancient time, Psal. 77. 5. Thou hast been my help, Psal. 63. 7. I was brought low, and he helped me, see 2 Tim. 4. 17, 18. Psal. 89. 49.

Keep thy heart

Keep thy heart calm and quiet from all passions, as fear, grief, &c. The still soul can best hear and know Christ's voice, his still voice; but where fear, vexation, and distempers dwell, they are not aware of Christ, nor themselves, and commonly they that fear most have least cause, as they had the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid; and the Angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, Luk. 2. 9, 10. When the soul is troubled with any passion, it is not at the command of

faith, Luk. 24. 41. the violence of their joy hindered their faith, Let not
your hearts be troubled, Joh. 13. 1.

