

as through the channel of faith, you are enabled to take this into your mind, and live in the believing apprehensions and revelation of it given unto you, and made of it in the word, the more you will be pressing after such communion with God, in the blessings of it, as will fill your minds with joy unspeakable, and full of glory.

May it rest on your hearts, and evermore abide there, that being elect, you are ever dear to God, and most truly precious in the sight of Christ. Our Lord must have an important end to answer by expressing himself as here he doth, *Thine they were, and thou gavest them me.* The Father's original and prior right in them, seems to be mentioned, as his plea on their behalf. And oh! how prevalent, when it comes from him, in whom the Father is well pleased. Whom he heareth always! and he adds, and thou gavest them me. And my heart is as truly, and immutably fixed on them, as it was when thou gavest them before all worlds. And I am as truly willing, and ready to die for them, in their room and stead, as I was to leave thy bosom and become true, and very man for to accomplish their salvation. Methinks this leads us, beloved, into the heart and design of our Lord in these expressions. And is it so? Are we so remembered by Christ, as for him to recommend us unto God? Does he love us because we are the beloved of God? let us learn then to make a great matter of election. Christ here makes more of it than of his own death. Let us do likewise. It being the fundamental of all grace, and all glory. Does our Lord here speak of the Father's gift of