

We may see ourselves crippled and halting, and from a strong bias to things pleasant and easy, find an impossibility to advance forward; but things impossible with men are possible with God; and our wills being made subject to his, all temptations are surmountable.

This work of subjecting the will, is compared to the mineral in the furnace; which, thro' fervent heat, is reduced from its first principle: "He refines them as silver is refined—He shall sit as a refiner, and purifier of silver." By these comparisons, we are instructed in the necessity of the melting operation of the hand of God upon us, to prepare our hearts truly to adore him, and manifest that adoration, by inwardly turning away from that spirit in all its workings, which is not of him. To forward this work, the all-wise God is sometimes pleased, thro' outward distress, to bring us near the gates of death; that life being painful and afflictive, and the prospect of eternity open before us, all earthly bonds may be loosened, and the mind prepared for that deep and sacred instruction, which otherwise would not be received. If kind parents love their children and delight in their happiness, then He, who is perfect goodness in sending abroad mortal contagions, doth assuredly direct their use—Are the righteous removed by it, their change is happy; are the wicked taken away in their wickedness, the Almighty is clear: Do we
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