

making and breaking promises and getting worse and worse it seemed to me; I now began to think without the help of God I cannot live many days longer and I desired that Christians should pray for me but I could not tell them so at this time, for I thought I could get religion without anybody knowing it; so I tried many ways but all to no purpose and my prayers did me no good. So I went on in this way until the first Sunday and Saturday in July which was the regular time of the Baptist meeting, and here I had a hard scuffle whether to go to meeting or not, if I went I could not ask the preacher to pray for me. I decided at last that I would go and ask the preacher to pray for me privately, but after I got there, there appeared to me a voice saying you are not the mourner spoken of in the Bible, you better not ask the preacher to pray for you, you are doing very well; before the preacher was done preaching I thought my case was outside of any one that I heard of; I had heard people tell their feelings that I thought were Christians, that I could partly witness, but my case is out of the reach of mercy for with all my trying, praying, and good deeds, it did me no benefit, so I said to myself, I must

begging mercy, I must quit begging, but my whole desire was Lord have mercy upon me.— There is no other way or plan of salvation for me, amidst all my toil and grief I desired to hear some one talk upon the subject of religion.— Now there was a baptist lady with whom I had been acquainted; I decided that I would go home with her and talk with her, as I thought that she could tell me a quick way of getting religion. So I started, I cannot tell my feelings as I strode along with her and after enquiring as to her health and the health of the settlement and friends, I brought up the subject of religion with trembling and an aching heart, she asked me a great many questions, some I could answer and some I could not. I commenced shedding tears, it did seem to me that my heart would break, I had not ever let any one see me shedding tears before, she could tell me the exercise of my mind, and tried to comfort me, I told her I was so hard of understanding and full of unbelief that I was a miserable and wretched sinner,

that there was no chance for me to be saved, for the scriptures say that God cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. She then preached Jesus to me, his errand into the world and his bitter death and sufferings on the cross to redeem his people, and was buried and the third day arose to justify such poor needy, lost and ruined sinners from their sins. I can say with safety that it was the best sermon I have ever heard, she did tell me the exercises of my mind for the last four or five years. I do think that if the fallow ground of my heart ever was broken up it was that evening, and I do hope that the fountain head of sin together with freewill and self righteousness were given up that day. Know began to say Lord save poor me if it is thy will and good pleasure, not my will but thine be done, and these words came to mind, but if I perish I will pray and perish only there; this one time I got pay for going to meeting. We sat dinner and went about three miles that night to meeting, myself and the lady and her brother, and she talked a great deal and she pointed me to the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. I talked some and wept bitterly, I told her that there was no chance for me,

and I had been such a bad boy and great and wicked sinner all my life that my case was an outside one and she told me the promises of the gospel, but I could not claim even the least of all the great promises of God being such a great sinner; I told her I wanted her and all Christians to pray for me and she said that she had tried to pray for me a long time and that I was on the mind of the church, for I heard them pray for you; this was an another deep mystery to me. I was getting worse and worse every hour while sitting under the sound of the gospel that night, all the punishment was for me and the promises for some one else. I felt like every body was looking at me, by this time I got willing to ask the preacher to pray for me; so at the close of service I got up trembling and so weak I could scarcely walk but I got to him and told him I wanted him to pray for me a poor lost condemned sinner: he taking hold of my hand said, Daniel, I am glad to see you come trembling and asking me and the church to pray for you, for I have been looking for you a long time and you seem to be very

stubborn. I asked the prayers of the church and preacher on Sunday for the last time, for I did not think that I could live until morning, this was the first Sunday in July, 1827, by this time I had lost most all hope of ever meeting God in peace after death, as I have tried the preacher, and also the prayers of the church and my case was nothing bettered; it did seem that there was no chance for me, I could not rest day nor night, my appetite had failed and God and hope were far from me: and every moment will certainly be my last and every time I tried to pray it would be my last. I lived on in this way until Wednesday before the third Sunday in July, there was to be preaching at the meeting house, so that morning I got up about day, I thought I would go and try to pray and ask God to show me the worst of my case, while I was on my knees it came into my mind it was the sin of unbelief and self-righteousness. I then in a few minutes thought I could give up all worldly pleasure for the sake of a hope in Christ; this was the darkest day to my mind I ever saw, I had nearly lost my mind, I wanted to go to meeting that night, although I did not think I could live until night, there is no use

of my going to meeting, the day of grace is past with me and I thought if I did I should die before I could get home, and if I stay and don't go I will surely die. Late in the evening I knew of a place about a half a mile from the house where no mortal eye could see nor hear and there I went to make my last petition and I said within my heart if I did not die there I would go to meeting that night for the last time. So through the mercy of God I was permitted to go to meeting that night, and my whole soul's desire was that I would find peace with my maker, and when I got there the preacher read his text and told where it might be found and said that he was going to preach an experimental sermon by the help of God, he told my feelings for a while; I listened a while and thought that he was wrong, for I had felt that way, and I am no Christian, but when he got to the place of deliverance he left me as if I were hanging on a brittle thread over an awful gulf; I cannot tell how I felt, expecting every breath to be the last. I asked the preacher to pray for me

for the last time as I thought, and as I went along home my sister talked to me, but I could not see how God could be just in saving such a sinner as I was, and when I got home I went in my room to lie down, I sat down on the bed meditating on my past life and this is the last day I ever shall see, I got up and went out one more time and fell down with my face to the ground. I now felt willing to say freely Lord thy will be done with my poor soul, if I am damned it is just and if saved it is through the goodness and mercy of God the giver of all good and perfect gifts, I got up and felt no relief, I went to my room and fell upon my bed, I thought every breath would be my last, I rolled and tumbled and my pillow was wet with tears, I mourned and groaned because I could not mourn a right. I grieved because I thought that such a sinner as I was could not be saved. I went to sleep and awoke about day light, my punishment was greater than I could bear, I picked out a place about a quarter of a mile and thought I would go and say my last prayer, these words being in my mind, you have eyes and can't see, ears and don't hear, a heart and do not understand what you are saying, the Lord

has done for poor sinners, such as you are, for Jesus has died to save poor sinners from their sins, and when I got half way to the place where I intended going, something caused me to stop and this thought arose in my mind what would I give that this great burden of sin and condemnation were removed from me so that I could praise God, and from some cause I do not know what, there seemed to be a little rejoicing in my heart. I went to the place I intended going and fell upon my knees and said, Lord I give myself to thee it is all that I can do, help thou mine unbelief. I could utter nothing else, my feelings I cannot describe, they are such I never felt before, while upon my knees I heard a voice saying, believe me, I am the way the truth and the life, it was I trust about like the voice that the old prophet heard in the mouth of the cave, and at this place I lost my burden and cannot tell how it went but I felt to rejoice and give glory and honor to God; I hope I had a full view of Jesus on the cross, not with the natural eye, but with an eye of faith. Now this is all I can