These words contain part of a gracious promise, which the blessed Jesus was pleased to make to his weeping and sorrowful disciples. The time was now drawing near, in which the Son of man was first to be lifted up on the cross, and afterwards to heaven. Kind, wondrous kind! Had this merciful High-priest been to his disciples, during the time of his tabernacling amongst them. He had compassion on their infirmities, answered for them when assaulted by their enemies, and set them right when out of the way, either in principle or practice. He neither called nor used them as servants, but as friends; and he revealed his secrets to them from time to time. He opened their understandings, that they might understand the scriptures; explained to them the hidden mysteries of the kingdom of God, when he spoke to others in parables: nay, he became the servant of them all, and even condescended to wash their feet. The thoughts of parting with so dear and loving a Master as this, especially for a long season, must needs affect them much. When on a certain occasion he intended to be absent from them only for a night, we are told, he was obliged to constrain them to leave him; no wonder then, that when he now informed them he must entirely go away, and that the Pharisees in his absence should put them out of their synagogues, and excommunicate them; yea, that the time should come, that whosoever killed them, would think they did God service (a prophecy, one would imagine, in an especial manner designed for the suffering ministers of this generation); no wonder, I say, considering all this, that we are told, ver. 6. Sorrow had filled their hearts: "Because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your hearts." The expression is very emphatical; their hearts were so full of concern, that they were ready to burst. In order, therefore, to reconcile them to this mournful dispensation, our dear and compassionate Redeemer shows them the necessity he lay under to leave them: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away:" As though he had said, Think not, my dear disciples, that I leave you out of anger: no, it is for your sakes, for your profit, that I go away: for if I go not away, if I die not upon the cross for your sins, and rise again for your justification, and ascend into heaven to make intercession, and plead my merits before my Father's throne; the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, will not, cannot come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And that they might know what he was to do, "When he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

The person referred to in the words of the text, is plainly the Comforter, the Holy Ghost; and the promise was first made to our Lord's apostles. But though it was primarily made to them, and was literally and remarkably fulfilled at the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost came down as a mighty rushing wind, and also when three thousand were pricked to the heart by Peter's preaching; yet, as the Apostles were the representatives of the whole body of believers, we must infer, that this promise must be looked upon as spoken to us, and to our children, and to as many as the Lord our God shall call.

My design from these words, is to show the manner in which the Holy Ghost generally works upon the hearts of those, who, through grace, are made vessels of mercy, and translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

I say, GENERALLY: For, as God is a sovereign agent, his sacred Spirit bloweth not only on whom, but when and how it listeth. Therefore, far be it from me to confine the Almighty to one way of acting, or say, that all undergo an equal degree of conviction: no, there is a holy variety in God's methods of calling home his elect. But this we may affirm assuredly, that, wherever there is a work of true conviction and conversion wrought upon a sinner's heart, the Holy Ghost, whether by a greater or less degree of inward soul-trouble, does that which our Lord Jesus told the disciples, in the words of the text, that he should do when he came.

If any of you ridicule inward-religion, or think there is no such
thing as our feeling or receiving the Holy Ghost, I fear my preaching will
be quite foolishness to you, and that you will understand me no more than
if I spoke to you in an unknown tongue. But as the promise in the text, is
made to the world, and as I know it will be fulfilling till time shall be
no more, I shall proceed to explain the general way whereby the Holy Ghost
works upon every converted sinner's heart; and I hope that the Lord, even
whilst I am speaking, will be pleased to fulfill it in many of your hearts.
"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, or righteousness,
and of judgment."

The word, which we translate reprove, ought to be rendered convince;
and in the original it implies a conviction by way of argumentation, and
coming with a power upon the mind equal to a demonstration. A great many
scoffers of these last days, will ask such as they term pretenders to the
Spirit, how they feel the Spirit, and how they know the Spirit? They might
as well ask, how they know, and how they feel the sun when it shines upon
the body? For with equal power and demonstration does the Spirit of God
work upon and convince the soul. And,

FIRST, It convinces of sin; and generally of some enormous sin, the
worst perhaps the convicted person ever was guilt of. Thus, when our Lord
was conversing with the woman of Samaria, he convinced her first of her
adultery: "Woman, go call thy husband. The woman answered, and said, I have
no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:
for thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast, is not thy
husband: in this saidst thou truly." With this there went such a powerful
conviction of all her other actual sins, that soon after, "she left her
water-pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, and
see a man that told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"
Thus our Lord also dealt with the persecutor Saul: he convinced him first
of the horrid sin of persecution; "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"
Such a sense of all his other sins, probably at the same time revived in
his mind, that immediately he died; that is, died to all his false
confidences, and was thrown into such an agony of soul, that he continued
days, and neither did eat nor drink. This is the method the Spirit of
God generally takes in dealing with sinners; he first convinces them of
some heinous actual sin, and at the same time brings all their other sins
into remembrance, and as it were sets them in battle-array before them:
"When he is come, he will reprove the world of sin.

And was it ever thus with you, my dear hearers? (For I must question
you as I go along, because I intend, by the Divine help, to preach not only
to your heads, but your hearts). Did the Spirit of God ever bring all your
sins thus to remembrance, and make you cry out to God, "Thou writest bitter
things against me?" Did your actual sins ever appear before you, as though
drawn in a map? If not, you have great reason (unless you were sanctified
from the womb) to suspect that you are not convicted, much more not
converted, and that the promise of the text was never yet fulfilled in your
hearts.

Farther: When the Comforter comes into a sinner's heart, though it
generally convinces the sinner of his actual sin first, yet it leads him to
see and bewail his original sin, the fountain from which all these polluted
streams do flow.

Though every thing in the earth, air, and water; every thing both
without and within, concur to prove the truth of that assertion in the
scripture, "in Adam we all have died;" yet most are so hardened through the
deceitfulness of sin, that notwithstanding they may give an assent, to the
truth of the proposition in their heads, yet they never felt it really in
their hearts. Nay, some in words professedly deny it, though their works
too, plainly prove them to be degenerate sons of a degenerate father.
But when the Comforter, the Spirit of God, arrests a sinner, and convinces
him of sin, all carnal reasoning against original corruption, every proud
and high imagination, which exalteth itself against that doctrine, is
immediately thrown down; and he is made to cry out, "Who shall deliver me
from the body of this death?" He now finds that concupiscence is sin; and
does not so much bewail his actual sins, as the inward perverseness of his
heart, which he now finds not only to be an enemy to, but also direct
enmity against God.

And did the Comforter, my dear friends, ever come with such a
convincing power as this unto your hearts? Were you ever made to see and
feel, that in your flesh dwelleth no good thing; that you are conceived and
born in sin; that you are by nature children of wrath; that God would be
just if he damned you, though you never committed an actual sin in your
lives? So often as you have been at church and sacrament, did you ever
feelingly confess, that there was no health in you; that the remembrance of
your original and actual sins was grievous unto you, and the burden of them
intolerable? If not, you have been only offering to God vain oblations; you
never yet prayed in your lives; the Comforter never yet came effectually
into your souls: consequently you are not in the faith properly so called;
no, you are at present in a state of death and damnation.

Again, the Comforter, when he comes effectually to work upon a sinner,
not only convicts him of the sin of his nature, and the sin of his life,
but also of the sin of his duties.

We all naturally are Legalists, thinking to be justified by the works
of the law. When somewhat awakened by the terrors of the Lord, we
immediately, like the Pharisees of old, go about to establish our own
righteousness, and think we shall find acceptance with God, if we seek it
with tears: finding ourselves damned by nature and our actual sins, we then
think to recommend ourselves to God by our duties, and hope, by our doings
of one kind or another, to inherit eternal life. But, whenever the
Comforter comes into the heart, it convicts the soul of these false rests,
and makes the sinner so see that all his righteousnesses are but filthy
rags; and that, for the most pompous services, he deserves no better a
doom than that of the unprofitable servant, "to be thrown into outer
darkness, where is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth."

And was this degree of conviction ever wrought in any of your souls?
Did the Comforter ever come into your hearts, so as to make you sick of
your duties, as well as your sins? Were you ever, with the great Apostle of
the Gentiles, made to abhor your own righteousness which is by the law, and
acknowledge that you deserve to be damned, though you should give all your
goods to feed the poor? Were you made to feel, that your very repentance
needed to be repented of, and that every thing in yourselves is but dung
and dross? And that all the arguments you can fetch for mercy, must be out
of the heart and pure unmerited love of God? Were you ever made to lie at
the feet of sovereign Grace, and to say, Lord, if thou wilt, thou mayest
save me; if not, thou mayest justly damn me; I have nothing to plead, I can
in no wise justify myself in thy sight; my best performances, I see, will
condemn me; and all I have to depend upon is thy free grace? What say you?
Was this ever, or is this now, the habitual language of your hearts? You
have been frequently at the temple; but did you ever approach it in the
temper of the poor Publican, and, after you have done all, acknowledge that
you have done nothing; and, upon a feeling experimental sense of your own
unworthiness and sinfulness every way, smite upon your breasts, and say,
"God be merciful to us sinners?" If you never were thus minded, the
Comforter never yet effectually came into your souls, you are out of
Christ; and if God should require your souls in that condition, he would be
no better to you than a consuming fire.

But there is a fourth sin, of which the Comforter, when he comes,
convinces the soul, and which alone (it is very remarkable) our Lord
mentions, as though it was the only sin worth mentioning; for indeed it is
the root of all other sins whatsoever: it is the reigning as well as the
damning sin of the world. And what now do you imagine that sin may be? It
is that cursed sin, that root of all other evils, I mean the sin of
unbelief. Says our Lord, verse 9. "Of sin, because they believe not on me."

But does the Christian world, or any of you that hear me this day,
want the Holy Ghost to convince you of unbelief? Are there any infidels
here? Yes, (O that I had not too great reason to think so!) I fear most are
such: not indeed such infidels as professedly deny the Lord that bought us
(though I fear too many of even such monsters are in every country); but I
mean such unbelievers, that have no more faith than the devils themselves.
Perhaps you may think you believe, because you repeat the Creed, or
subscribe to a Confession of Faith; because you go to church or meeting,
receive the sacrament, and are taken into full communion. These are blessed
privileges; but all this may be done, without our being true believers. And
I know not how to detect your false hypocritical faith better, than by
putting to you this question: How long have you believed? Would not most of
you say, as long as we can remember; we never did disbelieve? Then this is
a certain sign that you have no true faith at all; no, not so much as a
grain of mustard-seed: for, if you believe now, unless you were sanctified
from your infancy, which is the case of some) you must know that there was
a time in which you did not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; and the Holy
Ghost, if ever you received it, convinced you of this. Eternal truth has
declared, "When he is come, he will convince the world of sin, because they
believe not on me."

None of us believe by nature: but after the Holy Ghost has convinced
us of the sin of our natures, and the sin of our lives and duties, in order
to convince us of our utter inability to save ourselves, and that we must
be beholden to God, as for every thing else, so for faith (without which it
is impossible to please, or be saved by Christ) he convinces us also, that
we have no faith. "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" is the grand
question which the Holy Ghost now puts to the soul: at the same time he
works with such power and demonstration, that the soul sees, and is obliged
to confess, that it has no faith.

This is a thing little thought of by most who call themselves
believers. They dream they are Christians, because they live in a Christian
country: If they were born Turks, they would believe on Mohammed; for what
is that which men commonly call faith, but an outward consent to the
established religion? But do not you thus deceive your own selves; true
faith is quite another thing. Ask yourselves, therefore, whether or not the
Holy Ghost ever powerfully convinced you of the sin of unbelief? You are
perhaps so devout (you may imagine) as to get a catalogue of sins; which
you look over, and confess in a formal manner, as often as you go to the
holy sacrament: but among all your sins, did you ever once confess and
bewail that damning sin of unbelief? Were you ever made to cry out, "Lord,
give me faith; Lord, give me to believe on thee; O that I had faith! O that
I could believe!" If you never were thus distressed, at least, if you never
saw and felt that you had no faith, it is a certain sign that the Holy
Ghost, the Comforter, never came into and worked savingly upon your souls.

But is it not odd, that the Holy Ghost should be called a Comforter,
when it is plain, by the experience of all God's children, that this work
of conviction is usually attended with sore inward conflicts, and a great
deal of soul-trouble? I answer, The Holy Ghost may well be termed a
Comforter, even in this work; because it is the only way to, and ends in,
true solid comfort. Blessed are they that are thus convicted by him, for
they shall be comforted. Nay, not only so, but there is present comfort,
even in the midst of these convictions: the soul secretly rejoices in the
sight of its own misery, blesses God for bringing it out of darkness into
light, and looks forward with a comfortable prospect of future
deliverances, knowing, that, "though sorrow may endure for a night, joy
will come in the morning."

Thus it is that the Holy Ghost convinces the soul of sin. And, if so,
how wretchedly are they mistaken, that blend the light of the Spirit with
the light of conscience, as all such do, who say, that Christ lighteth
every man that cometh into the world, and that light, if improved, will
bring us to Jesus Christ? If such doctrine be true, the promise in the text
was needless: our Lord's apostles had already that light; the world
hereafter to be convinced, had that light; and, if that was sufficient to
bring them to Christ, why was it expedient that Christ should go away to
heaven, to send down the Holy Ghost to do this for them! Alas! all have not
this Spirit: it is the special gift of God, and, without this special gift,
we can never come to Christ.

The light of conscience will accuse or convince us of any common sin;
but the light of natural conscience never did, never will, and never can,
convince of unbelief. If it could, how comes it to pass, that not one of
the heathens, who improved the light of nature in such an eminent degree,
was ever convinced of unbelief? No, natural conscience cannot effect this;
it is the peculiar property of the Holy Ghost the Comforter: "When he is
come, he will reprove (or convince) the world of sin, or righteousness, and
judgment."

We have heard how he convinces of sin: we come not to show,

SECONDLY, What is the righteousness, of which the Comforter convinces
the world.

By the word righteousness, in some places of scripture, we are to
understand that common justice which we ought to practice between man and
man; as when Paul is said to reason of temperance and righteousness before a trembling Felix. But here (as in a multitude of other places in holy writ) we are to understand by the word righteousness, the active and passive obedience of the dear Lord Jesus; even that perfect, personal, all-sufficient righteousness, which he has wrought out for that world which the Spirit is to convince. "Of righteousness, (says our Lord) because I go to the Father, and ye see me no more." This is one argument that the Holy Spirit makes use of to prove Christ's righteousness, because he is gone to the Father, and we see him no more. For, had he not wrought out a sufficient righteousness, the Father would have sent him back, as not having done what he undertook; and we should have seen him again.

O the righteousness of Christ! It so comforts my soul, that I must be excused if I mention it in almost all my discourses. I would not, if I could help it, have one sermon without it. Whatever infidels may object, or Arminians sophistically argue against an imputed righteousness; yet whoever know themselves and God, must acknowledge, that "Jesus Christ is the end of the law for righteousness, (and perfect justification in the sight of God) to every one that believeth," and that we are to be made the righteousness of God in him. This, and this only, a poor sinner can lay hold of, as a sure anchor of his hope. Whatever other scheme of salvation men may lay, I acknowledge I can see no other foundation whereon to build my hopes of salvation, but on the rock of Christ's personal righteousness, imputed to my soul.

Many, I believe, have a rational conviction of, and agree with me in this: but rational convictions, if rested in, avail but little; it must be a spiritual, experimental conviction of the truth, which is saving. And therefore our Lord says, when the Holy Ghost comes in the day of his power, it convinces of this righteousness, of the reality, completeness, and sufficiency of it, to save a poor sinner.

We have seen how the Holy Ghost convinces the sinner of the sin of his nature, life, duties, and of the sin of unbelief; and what then must the poor creature do? He must, he must inevitably despair, if there be no hope but in himself. When therefore the Spirit has hunted the sinner out of all his false rests and hiding-places, taken off the pitiful fig-leaves of his own works, and driven him out of the trees of the garden (his outward reformations) and place him naked before the bar of a sovereign, holy, just, and sin-avenging God; then, then it is, when the soul, having the sentence of death within itself because of unbelief, has a sweet display of Christ's righteousness made to it by the Holy Spirit of God. Here it is, that he begins more immediately to act in the quality of a Comforter, and convinces the soul so powerfully of the reality and all-sufficiency of Christ's righteousness, that the soul is immediately set a hungering and thirsting after it. Now the sinner begins to see, that though he has destroyed himself, yet in Christ is his help; that, though he has no righteousness of his own to recommend him, there is a fullness of grace, a fullness of truth, a fullness of righteousness in the dear Lord Jesus, which, if once imputed to him, will make him happy for ever and ever.

None can tell, but those happy souls who have experienced it, with what demonstration of the Spirit this conviction comes. O how amiable, as well as all-sufficient, does the blessed Jesus now appear! With what new eyes does the soul now see the Lord its righteousness! Brethren, it is unutterable. If you were never thus convinced of Christ's righteousness in your own souls, though you may believe it doctrinally, it will avail you nothing, if the Comforter never came savingly into your souls, then you are comfortless indeed. But

What will this righteousness avail, if the soul has it not in possession?

THIRDLY, The next thing therefore the Comforter, when he comes, convinces the soul of, is judgment.

By the word judgment, I understand that well-grounded peace, that settled judgment, which the soul forms of itself, when it is enabled by the Spirit of God to lay hold on Christ's righteousness, which I believe it always does, when convinced in the matter before-mentioned. "Of judgment (says our Lord) because the Prince of this world is judged;" the soul, being enabled to lay hold on Christ's perfect righteousness by a lively faith, has a conviction wrought in it by the Holy Spirit, that the Prince of this world is judged. The soul being now justified by faith, has peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and can triumphantly say, It is
Christ that justifies me, who is he that condemns me? The strong man armed
is now cast out; my soul is in a true peace; the Prince of this world will
come and accuse, but he has now no share in me: the blessed Spirit which I
have received, and whereby I am enabled to apply Christ's righteousness to
my poor soul, powerfully convinces me of this: why should I fear? Or of
what shall I be afraid, since God's Spirit witnesses with my spirit, that I
am a child of God? The Lord is ascended up on high; he has led captivity
captive; he has received the Holy Ghost the Comforter, that best of gifts
for men: and that Comforter is come into my heart: he is faithful that hath
promised: I, even I, am powerfully, rationally, spiritually convicted of
sin, righteousness and judgment. By this I know the Prince of this world is
judged.

Thus, I say, may we suppose that soul to triumph, in which the promise
of the text is happily fulfilled. And though, at the beginning of this
discourse, I said, most had never experienced any thing of this, and that
therefore this preaching must be foolishness to such; yet I doubt not but
there are some few happy souls, who, through grace, have been enabled to
follow me step by step; and notwithstanding the Holy Ghost might not
directly work in the same order as I have described, and perhaps they
cannot exactly say the time when, yet they have a well-grounded confidence
that the work is done, and that they have really been convinced of sin,
righteousness and judgment in some way, or at some time or another.

And now, what shall I say to you? O thank God, thank the Lord Jesus,
thank the ever-blessed Trinity, for this unspeakable gift: for you would
never have been thus highly favored, had not he who first spoke darkness
into light, loved you with an everlasting love, and enlightened you by his
Holy Spirit, and that too, not on account of any good thing foreseen in
you, but for his own name's sake.

Be humble therefore, O believers, be humble: look to the rock from
whence you have been hewn: extol free grace; admire electing love, which
alone has made you to differ from the rest of your brethren. Has God
brought you into light? Walk as becometh children of light. Provoke not the
Holy Spirit to depart from you: for though he hath sealed you to the day of
redemption, and you know that the Prince of this world is judged; yet if
you backslide, grow luke-warm, or forget your first love, the Lord will
visit your offenses with the rod of affliction, and your sin with spiritual
scourges. Be not therefore high-minded, but fear. Rejoice, but let it be
with trembling. As the elect of God, put on, not only humbleness of mind,
but bowels of compassion; and pray, O pray for your unconverted brethren!
Help me, help me now, O children of God, and hold up my hands, as Aaron and
Hur once held up the hands of Moses. Pray, whilst I am preaching, that the
Lord may enable me to say, This day is the promise in the text fulfilled in
some poor sinners hearts. Cry mightily to God, and, with the cords of holy
violence, pull down blessings on your neighbors heads. Christ yet lives and
reigns in heaven: the residue of the Spirit is yet in his hand, and a
plentiful effusion of it is promises in the latter days of the church. And
O that the Holy Ghost, the blessed Comforter, would now come down, and
convince those that are Christless amongst you, of sin, of righteousness,
and of judgment! O that you were once made willing to be convinced!

But perhaps you had rather be filled with wine than with the Spirit,
and are daily chasing that Holy Ghost from your souls. What shall I say for
you to God? "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." What
shall I say from God to you? Why? That "God was in Christ reconciling the
world unto himself:" Therefore I beseech you, as in Christ's stead, be ye
reconciled to God. Do not go away contradicting and blaspheming. I know
Satan would have you be gone. Many of you may be uneasy, and are ready to
cry out, "What a weariness is this!" But I will not let you go: I have
wrestled with God for my hearers in private, and I must wrestle with you
here in public. Though of myself I can do nothing, and you can no more by
your own power come to and believe on Christ, than Lazarus could come forth
from the grave; yet who knows but God may beget some of you again to a
lively hope by this foolishness of preaching, and that you may be some of
that world, which the Comforter is to convince of sin, or righteousness,
and of judgment? Poor Christless souls! Do you know what a condition you
are in? Why, you are lying in the wicked one, the devil; he rules in you,
he walks and dwells in you, unless you dwell in Christ, and the Comforter
is come into your hearts. And will you contentedly lie in that wicked one that
death? What wages will he give you? Eternal death. O that you would
come to Christ! The free gift of God through him is eternal life. He will
accept of you even now, if you will believe in him. The Comforter may yet
come into your hearts, even yours. All that are now his living temples,
were once lying in the wicked one, as well as you. This blessed gift, this
Holy Ghost, the blessed Jesus received even for the rebellious.

I see many of you affected: but are your passions only a little
wrought upon, or are your souls really touched with a lively sense of the
heinousness of your sins, your want of faith, and the preciousness of the
righteousness of Jesus Christ? If so, I hope the Lord has been gracious,
and that the Comforter is coming into your hearts. Do not stifle these
convictions! Do not go away, and straightway forget what manner of doctrine
you have heard, and thereby show that these are only common workings of a
few transient convictions, floating upon the surface of your hearts. Beg of
God that you may be sincere (for he alone can make you so) and that you may
indeed desire the promise of the text to be fulfilled in your souls. Who
knows but the Lord may be gracious? Remember you have no plea but sovereign
mercy; but, for your encouragement also, remember it is the world, such as
are you, to whom the Comforter is to come, and whom he is to convince: wait
therefore at wisdom's gates. The bare probability of having a door of mercy
opened, is enough to keep you striving. Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners, the chief of them: you know not but he came to save you. Do
not go and quarrel with God's decrees, and say, if I am a reprobate, I
shall be damned; if I am elected, I shall be saved; and therefore I will do
nothing. What have you to do with God's decrees? Secret things belong to
him; it is you business to "give all diligence to make your calling and
election sure." If there are but few who find the way that leads to life,
do you strive to be some of them: you know not but you may be in the number of
those few, and that your striving may be the means which God intends to
bless, to give you an entrance in. If you do not act thus, you are not
sincere; and, if you do, who knows but you may find mercy? For though,
after you have done all that you can, God may justly cut you off, yet
never was a single person damned who did all that he could. Though therefore your
hands are withered, stretch them out; though you are impotent, sick, and
lame, come, lie at the pool. Who knows but by and by the Lord Jesus may
have compassion on you, and send the Comforter to convince you of sin,
righteousness, and of judgment? He is a God full of compassion and long-
suffering, otherwise you and I had been long since lifted up our eyes in
torments. But still he is patient with us!

O Christless sinners, you are alive, and who knows but God intends to
bring you to repentance? Could my prayers or tears affect it, you should
have vollies of the one, and floods of the other. My heart is touched with
a sense of your condition: May our merciful High-priest now send down the
Comforter, and make you sensible of it also! O the love of Christ! It
constrains me yet to beseech you to come to him; what do you reject, if you
reject Christ, the Lord of glory! Sinners, give the dear Redeemer a lodging
in your souls. Do not be Bethshemites; give Christ your hearts, your whole
hearts. Indeed he is worthy. He made you, and not you yourselves. You are
not your own; give Christ then your bodies and souls, which are his! Is it
not enough to melt you down, to think that the high and lofty One, who
inhabited eternity, should condescend to invite you by his ministers? How
soon can he frown you to hell? And how know you, but he may, this very
instant, if you do not hear his voice? Did any yet harden their hearts
against Christ, and prosper? Come then, do not send me sorrowful away: do
not let me have reason to cry out, O my leanness, my leanness! Do not let
me go weeping into my closet, and say, "Lord, they will not believe my
report; Lord, I have called them, and they will not answer; I am unto them
as a very pleasant song, and as one that plays upon a pleasant instrument;
but their hearts are running after the lust of the eye, the lust of the
flesh, and the pride of life." Would you be willing that I should give such
an account of you, or make such a prayer before God? And yet I must not
only do so here, but appear in judgment against you hereafter, unless you
will come to Christ. Once more therefore I entreat you to come. What
objections have you to make? Behold, I stand here in the name of God, to
answer all that you can offer. But I know no one can come, unless the
Father draw him: I will therefore address one to my God, and intercede with
him to send the Comforter into your hearts.

O blessed Jesus, who art a God whose compassions fail not, and in whom all the promises are yea and amen; thou that sittest between the cherubims, show thyself amongst us. Let us now see thy outgoings! O let us now taste that thou art gracious, and reveal thy almighty arm! Get thyself the victory in these poor sinners hearts. Let not the word spoken prove like water spilt upon the ground. Send down, send down, O great High-priest, the Holy Spirit, to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. So will we give thanks and praise to thee, O Father, thee O Son, and thee O blessed Spirit; to whom, as three Persons, but one God, be ascribed by angels and archangels, by cherubims and seraphims, and all the heavenly hosts, all possible power, might, majesty, and dominion, now and for evermore. Amen, Amen, Amen.