

Selected readings from Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, By
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Reading 119

“I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.” Isaiah 48:10

Comfort yourself, tried believer, with this thought: God said, “I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction.” Doesn’t this come like a soft shower, relieving the fury of the flame? Yes, isn’t it an asbestos armor, against which the heat has no power? Let affliction come—God has chosen me. Poverty may stride in at my door, but God is in the house already, and he has chosen me. Sickness may intrude, but I have a balm ready—God has chosen me. Whatever befalls me in this vale of tears, I know that he has “chosen” me.

If, believer, you require still greater comfort, remember *that you have the Son of Man with you in the furnace*. In that silent chamber of yours, there sitting by your side One whom you have not seen, but whom you love; and oftentimes when you know not, he makes your bed in your affliction, and smooths your pillow. You are in poverty; but in that lovely house of yours the Lord of life and glory is a frequent visitor. He loves to come into these desolate places, that he may visit you there. Your friend sticks closely to you. Though you can’t see him, you feel the pressure of his hands. Do you not hear his voice? Even in the valley of the shadow of death he says, “Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.” Remember that noble speech of Caesar: “Fear not, you carry Caesar and all his fortune.” Fear not, Christian; Jesus is with you. In all your fiery trials, his presence is both your comfort and safety. He will never leave one whom he has chosen for his own.

“Fear not, for I am with you,” is his sure word of promise to his chosen ones in the “furnace of affliction.” Will you not, then, take fast hold of Christ, and say—
“Through floods and flames, if Jesus lead, I will follow where he goes.”